

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

At 2, West Terrace, about noon on the 26th May, the wife of T. K. DEALY, of a son. [1:32]

DEATHS.

At Ryde, Isle of Wight, on the 13th inst., aged 80, CONSTANCE, widow of Colonel HUGH MITCHELL, R.M., and mother of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. (By telegraph.)

At Tokyo, on 15th May, 1895, at 2.30 p.m., HERMANN IWERSEN, Consul for the Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway in Nagasaki; born at Riepsdorf 1st April, 1844.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 26th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 26th May (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Hayashi has been appointed Japanese Minister to Peking.

The Brigadier-General of the Manchu garrison of Chinkiang, General Pao Yi, has been appointed Tartar-General of Canton.

Hongkong continues free of plague. The disease is still prevalent at Macao, but the number of deaths is reported to be diminishing.

Mr. Lowther, Secretary of Legation, has been appointed British *Charge d'Affaires* in Tokyo pending the arrival of Mr. Satow, the new Minister.

The Chinese, according to the *Mercury*, state that the Emperor, advised by the Empress Dowager, still desires to change the capital of China further inland.

A rebellion has been launched in Formosa and the Peking Government has been formally notified that the island has declared its independence. A general named Kee Hung-kuk is at the head of the movement.

Mr. Howie, who was captured by the Japanese at Weihaiwei, has been released by the Japanese and was in Shanghai the other day.

It was noticed by a steamer passing Weihaiwei on the 17th instant that there were only two large Japanese transports in the harbour, one of which was fitted with derricks, so that probably she was engaged in lifting some of the big guns for transport to Japan.

Amongst the list of birthday honours Mr. O'Connor, Minister to China, has been made a K.C.B., Mr. N. J. Hannen, Chief Justice and Consul-General at Shanghai, has been knighted, and Mr. F. H. May, Captain-Superintendent of Police, Hongkong, has been made a C.M.G.

Sir Joseph Pease, Member for Tyneside, has moved a resolution in the House of Commons that the revenue derived from opium is morally indefensible and urging the suppression of its cultivation and sale except for medical purposes. The resolution was rejected by 176 against 59.

According to a Reuter's telegram, Germany, France, and Russia have requested Japan to specify the precise amount they intend claiming as a special indemnity for the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula in order to accelerate the withdrawal of their troops from the mainland of China.

The *Mercury* of the 20th inst. says:—A sum of 2,000,000 taels, forming part of the provincial loan secured in the Customs revenue, was paid by a foreign firm into the Hongkong Bank early last week. It is perhaps indicative of the present state of affairs that up to-day it was not taken possession of.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 23rd inst. says:—Some of the extra guards who were sent up to Tientsin for the protection of the Legations at Peking have left the northern port. The Germans were withdrawn some days ago and the Americans were taken to Chefoo by the *Chung-king* on Sunday. On the same day the *Concord* and *Yorktown* left with them on board for Nagasaki.

At the meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce held on the 20th inst. it was mentioned that the question as to the importing of machinery for the purposes of cotton spinning had been settled in favour of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who for some months past had machinery lying at Shanghai awaiting permission to be landed. A cotton mill under British management will be erected immediately.

The Acting Puisne Judge of Hongkong on the 25th inst. gave judgment in a case in which the plaintiff sued on a compradore's order. His Honour decided that a compradore's order was a bill of exchange under Ordinance 9 of 1885 and was therefore an instrument which could not be stamped after execution and which could not be received as creating, transferring, or extinguishing any right or obligation, and which could not be received as evidence.

The steamer *Billiton*, 195 tons, has been burnt while on a voyage from Langkat to Penang, laden with kerosine, and it is feared that all her crew, which numbered fifty, have perished. The vessel left Langkat on the 11th inst. and a burning mass, which from its position and the fact of the *Billiton* being overdue, left no doubt that it was the cargo of that vessel, was seen off Penang on the 14th. Nothing was seen of the ship herself, and it is supposed her sides had been blown out by an explosion.

A treaty of commerce between Japan and Brazil will shortly be concluded by the Japanese Minister to the United States and the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and at the same time a special emigration convention will be concluded by the two countries. It is said the Brazilian Government wishes for the immigration of Japanese into that country, as it fears encroachment of the national rights by Italians, the number of immigrants of that nationality now being above half of the entire population, and thus the Brazilian Government now desires to see an entry into the country of Japanese subjects instead.

From last accounts it seems, the *N. C. Daily News* says, that Wu Ta-cheng, Governor of Hunan, is still at Wuchang, the capital of Hupeh, not venturing to enter into Hunan territory owing to the united opposition of the people of that province, who refuse to have such a man over them as Governor. A petition signed by all the notables and gentry of Hunan, containing over 10,000 names, has been forwarded to the Throne by Wang Lien, Provincial Judge and acting Governor of Hunan, praying the Throne to appoint some other person as Governor "instead of the one who had been instrumental in branding the name of the Hunan army with such infamy and disgrace in Manchuria."

The Wuchang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—The new cotton mill, the machinery for which has been lying in temporary sheds for some time, is now being begun. I have heard on good authority that the old mill is to be handed over to a Chinese merchant or merchants, who will pay the Government a fixed rent. This will, if true, mean that in future the mill will be run on purely commercial lines, a desirable thing for all concerned. The mint has not yet been formally opened, but a few specimen coins have been minted. In design they only differ from those coined in Canton by the substitution of Hupeh for Kwantung, and by a corresponding change in the Chinese characters. The silver is assayed by students in the government school of mines in Wuchang, so should be more uniform in quality than that coined in the south.

A telegram dated Tientsin, 16th May, was published in the *N. C. Daily News* as follows:—"France, Germany, and Russia object to all financial schemes of China conferring special rights on any nationality. This protest will frustrate the reported proposals of an American syndicate for financing the indemnity to be paid Japan, security for which was to be the concession for the construction of railways, etc." In reference to this the *Mercury* says it is "authorised to deny that any such financial scheme as our contemporary indicated has ever been in contemplation. There have been no negotiations on behalf of any American syndicate to pay off the indemnity in exchange for any national conditions. It is quite true that certain American and English financial houses of high rank have proposed a loan to China, and have offered to finance the indemnity, but the proposal has not included any special conditions national or otherwise. The fact that the greater part of the capital is English may at once disabuse the mind of any reasonable man. It is also the fact that the same syndicate has offered in the ordinary manner to find capital for the construction of railways, but neither in this have any national or exclusive privileges been suggested. The syndicate is in the purest sense a mercantile one, and as we have stated includes financial houses on both sides of the Atlantic of the highest position."

THE AUSTRIAN PRESS ON THE CHINESE QUESTION.

If Austria has played no part in endeavouring to deprive Japan of some of the fruits of her conquests in the Central Kingdom, it is not the fault of the Vienna Press. Austrian interests in the Far East are not great, and the Austro-Hungarian Government has never done much to foster trade with China. Beyond the subsidy paid to the Austrian Lloyd's Steam Navigation Company, the maintenance of a Legation at Peking, the Minister at which is likewise accredited to Japan and Siam, and the despatch of an occasional cruiser to the Far East to display the flag of the Empire, the Government of the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH makes no effort to assert itself in this part of the world. As there is comparatively very slender intercourse between Austria and the empires of Eastern Asia, the ignorance prevailing in the former concerning them is perhaps more pardonable than it is when displayed in Great Britain or the United States. To the vast mass of Austrians, Hungarians, Czechs, Bohemians, Bosnians, and other races constituting the loosely knit empire, China and Japan are for the most part unknown lands, and the people are ready to take on trust any reports or traveller's tales concerning the Far East that may be laid before them. Some three or four years ago Count ALEXANDER HUBNER, a noble of the Austrian Empire, after a tour through Asia, gave to the world his experiences and impressions of the lands he had seen, and, referring to China and her millions, he raised the same note of alarm that has been sounded by Lord WOLSELEY and some other silly persons in England and echoed by sensation lovers on the other side of the Atlantic. Count HUBNER, after setting forth the endurance, frugality, and patience of the Chinaman, ventured on a prophecy that the great problem of the Twentieth Century will be the struggle between the White and Yellow Races of mankind. The volume, being cleverly written, not unnaturally produced some sensation on the Continent of Europe, and was widely reviewed by the English press. The predictions of the noble prophet have since fallen out of sight somewhat, but the news of the conclusion of a Treaty of Peace between Japan and China, accompanied by the statement—we believe to be unfounded—that a secret treaty of alliance had at the same time been negotiated between the two Asiatic Powers, may have served to some extent to recall to the Viennese the warning of Count HUBNER. At all events they profess a profound distrust of the Japanese, and see nothing but evil as likely to result from the conclusion of peace conjoined with an agreement by which Chinese forces are to be trained into a powerful agent for offence or defence by Japanese instructors.

Swallowing this story in one bolus the Austrian Press proceeds to write on the supposition that, like Austria and Germany, Japan and China, after settling their differences by the sword, have been drawn to each other, and will henceforward be allies. Under such circumstances they anticipate the most momentous changes in Asia. They

go on to foretell that European influence, political, commercial, and industrial, will be driven from the Asiatic Continent, and that, within one or two generations, cheap Chinese and Japanese labour will seek an outlet for its over-production in the European and American markets, ruining the manufacturing industries of Europe just as easily as agricultural production in the new countries over the sea has ruined or is ruining the European farmer. The *Freie Presse*, in imagination, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Standard*, "already sees the Chinese, a nation of over three hundred millions, changed into good, well-disciplined, and well-handled soldiers and seamen, like the Japanese, and as they will be provided with the best weapons, probably of their own make, that will mean woe to decrepit, decaying Europe and its civilisation. The migration of Asiatic barbarians to Europe, the *Presse* fears, will be repeated, over-running our beautiful cities, and extinguishing the luxuries of the Western World, just as those of the Roman Empire were extinguished by the hordes coming from Asia down the Volga." This fanciful picture of history repeating itself has no doubt created some alarm in Europe, and might perhaps, if drawn in Berlin instead of Vienna, have helped to account for Germany joining Russia and France in putting pressure on Japan to induce her to part with the Liaotung peninsula. But the German papers are, as a rule, better informed, and not given to alarmist writing about the East. They know better how to gauge the relations between Japan and China, and they can form a truer estimate of the character of the Chinese Government and nation. The writer in the *Vienna Presse* is so little *en rapport* with fact that he actually asserts that LI HUNG-CHANG would long ere this have opened up China to European civilization, in order to develop her immense resources, but saw in the Japanese the best aids in the work of reforming China, and waited to obtain their assistance. How little idea the mis-called great Viceroy ever had of inaugurating any real reforms is only too well known to all those who have watched the course of events. Like other venal mandarins Li thought more of what he could make by squeezing on contracts for war material and men-of-war than of the providing effectively for the defence of his country, a fact only too abundantly proved during the course of the disastrous war just concluded. LI HUNG-CHANG has never been a power for good in China, and the vast influence of his family and gang has been systematically used for their enrichment at the expense of the people. The Cantonese are now rejoicing over the departure of the corrupt ex-Viceroy, whom they have significantly dubbed "The Bottomless Purse." This man, who is brother to LI HUNG-CHANG, is retiring with his enormous plunder to his native province of Anhwei, where he doubtless hopes to enjoy his ill gotten gains in peace, and in all probability this desire will be gratified unless the anti-Li faction in Peking succeed in their crusade and overthrow the head of the family. The fall of LI HUNG-CHANG and the rise to power of CHANG CHIH-TUNG would, however, not necessarily mean the regeneration of China. We are confident that this can only be effected from without; the cankerworm of corruption has so eaten into the body politic that it can only be removed by an operation beyond the power of a native to perform. The Viennese may rest in peace. Their splendid, gay, and somewhat dissolute city is never likely to be menaced by a horde of yellow troops from the East. If it ever falls to a foreign conqueror, it will be to one much nearer to its gates.

THE MEETING OF THE SHANGHAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Several matters of interest were touched upon at the annual meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, held on the 20th inst. One of the speakers suggested that in view of a number of questions affecting commerce being raised it would be desirable to have a meeting once a quarter, a suggestion which we think might also with advantage be acted upon in Hongkong. When meetings are held only once a year private members of the Chamber have little opportunity of discussing questions at a time when discussion might do good, for most of the questions that arise must necessarily have been disposed of by the Committee during the course of the year and the general body of the Chamber at the annual meeting are simply invited to attend the funeral. It would be to the advantage of trade in general, we think, if a good deal of the work now done by the Committee on their own responsibility were dealt with by the Chamber as a whole, as it very well might be if the meetings were held quarterly instead of annually.

The first subject touched upon by the Chairman of the Shanghai Chamber (Mr. C. J. DUDGEON) in his speech was that of the Woosung Bar. It will be remembered that an arrangement was made with Sir CHARLES HARTLEY to come out and report on the Bar, but owing to illness he was unable to fulfil his engagement. Thereupon the Committee consulted with the Consular authorities and it was agreed on all hands that so long as the war continued between China and Japan it would be entirely hopeless to attempt to induce the Chinese authorities to move in the matter. Mr. E. A. HEWETT, the Acting Agent of the P. & O. Company, went into the subject at greater length than the Chairman. Doubtless, Mr. HEWETT said, there were some who thought the present was hardly an auspicious moment for requesting the Chinese Government to spend money on improvements, just as they were called upon to pay a heavy war indemnity to Japan, but however much we might sympathise with them in the position in which they found themselves the condition of the Woosung Bar was so serious, with so much reason to fear that it might become worse, as in his opinion to justify the Chamber in insisting on some improvements being effected without delay. Mr. HEWETT mentioned the large revenue derived from tonnage dues to show that the work of improving the river should certainly be carried out by the Chinese Government, and as showing the necessity of this being done he mentioned that whereas formerly the depth of water on the Bar at spring tides was often over 23 feet, 21 feet being then considered a poor tide, recently 20ft. 6in. only have obtained and even this was very exceptional and could not be counted on. Since the *Feima* channel had been blocked by the *Nora* he was advised that they could not safely reckon on obtaining more than 18 feet during the day tides, and that under ordinary circumstances a vessel could not be brought up to Shanghai if likely to be drawing more than 18 feet at the time of her departure, without incurring considerable risk of being neaped. Judging from past experience, which has shown that during the summer and autumn months the Bar as a rule silts up, Mr. HEWETT had been newly advised that, as far as could be seen at present, instead of 18 feet they might shortly have to calculate on 16ft. 6in. as the greatest depth of water which could be expected during spring tides. This meant that nearly all the ocean going steamers might before long

have to discharge and load almost entirely at Woosung. Mr. Hewett's remarks were endorsed by the meeting, and doubtless the Committee of the Chamber will do their utmost to press the matter to a satisfactory termination. The Chairman in his opening speech mentioned a rumour to the effect that the Woosung Bar was one of the matters dealt with in the treaty of peace between China and Japan and said it was to be hoped that this was the case, and that pressure would now be brought to bear on the Chinese authorities to remove an obstruction which has for so long been a standing menace to the trade of the port. The treaty of peace, however, contains no mention of the subject, but it may possibly be dealt with in the commercial treaty, which has still to be negotiated. It would be an excellent thing for the trade of Shanghai if this were so, for then discussion would be succeeded by action.

The next question touched upon in the Chairman's speech was that of the importation of machinery, but this has now been happily disposed of by the treaty with Japan and no further dispute can arise on the point. A decision has already been given in favour of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. as to their right to import machinery for cotton spinning and a mill under British management is to be erected immediately. This is the commencement of a movement that bids fair to attain large proportions. When British manufactures have been shut out of Continental countries by hostile tariffs British manufacturers have set up mills in those countries themselves, and now that manufacturing industry can safely be carried on in China no doubt manufacturers will hasten to establish factories there in order to secure the benefit of the bounty afforded by dear gold to the productions of silver countries. If the Chinese Government follow a liberal and enlightened policy Shanghai will before long be the seat of a great cotton industry.

There is one danger, however, which will have to be faced, of which an indication is given in the report of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that in the case of locally manufactured yarns a differential lekin tax was being levied in their favour. Locally manufactured yarns have, up to the present, been Chinese manufactured, and the discrimination was against imported goods. A similar discrimination might be attempted in favour of the manufactures of a Chinese establishment and against those of a foreign establishment standing next door. So long as lekin exists so long will there be abuses. Transit passes should theoretically carry with them exemption from likin, but as was remarked by Mr. DUDGEON, as a matter of fact the system of the issue of transit passes, which entails a delay of at least ten days or a fortnight between the date of application and the issue of the pass, is wholly inapplicable to many branches of the trade. A remedy for this delay has been promised, but it is to be doubted whether the transit pass system can ever be successfully applied to deliveries of small quantities of cargo, as in the yarn and piece goods trade; the system is too slow and cumbersome, and attempts which have been made to get the natives to try it have wholly failed. It would appear, said Mr. DUDGEON in conclusion, that this much vexed question of lekin must remain as a burden on the trade until radical reforms are introduced in the whole system of inland taxation; and it may be that the time for these radical reforms is approaching. We hope that this may turn out to be so

and that in the treaty of commerce with Japan the troublesome question of lekin will be finally disposed of. With the removal of the Woosung Bar, freedom for manufacturing industry, and the abolition of lekin a bright future ought to be in store for the Model Settlement.

THE TAIPINGSHAN RESUMPTION QUESTION.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday the Taipingshan question was once more brought on the tapis by a vote for the remuneration of the arbitrators. The gentlemen appointed to conduct the arbitration discharged their duties with conspicuous success and, like every one else concerned, have made a very nice thing out of it, for \$4,000 remuneration to each of them for the amount of work performed cannot be considered illiberal. Good work, however, deserves good pay, and we are not disposed to quarrel with the vote. On the contrary, we would suggest that a little more money should be spent, by the appointment of another committee of experts, in order to determine what is to be done with the resumed area. If by spending four or five thousand dollars in this direction the colony could be saved a waste of a few lakhs' worth of property the investment would be a sound one. It will be remembered that when the resumption of Taipingshan was proposed the owners of the property were hugely delighted, for they knew that if they had the Government for a purchaser they would get full value for their holdings, and they have in fact fared very much better than the owners of plague property outside the resumed area. It was a matter of indifference to them how their property was dealt with after resumption, whether it was burnt or otherwise; their only interest was to get rid of it and pocket the money. The proposal to burn it, however, met with some opposition from disinterested parties, people who owned no property in the district, but who objected to the public funds, to which they as ratepayers had to contribute, being wasted in smoke. The opposition succeeded in so far that the Resumption Bill was amended to the extent that burning was not made compulsory, the manner of ultimately dealing with the property being left open. That burning was unnecessary and would have been inadvisable has been shown by the course of events, for at Canton, where the houses visited by the plague have been reoccupied without any reconstruction whatever, the disease has not made its reappearance, whereas Macao, which escaped last year, is now suffering from a visitation almost if not quite as severe as that from which this colony suffered. This shows that it is not in the soil or in bricks and mortar that the contagion lurks. Once the contagion is introduced, however, filth and insanitary surroundings supply the most favourable conditions for its propagation, and hence, this point being fully recognised, all parties are agreed as to the necessity of effective sanitation. Where a house cannot be rendered sanitary without being destroyed the public safety must be held to demand its destruction, but where a perfectly sanitary condition can be secured by less drastic means the destruction of the property would be sheer waste.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 17th September last the Hon. C. P. CHATER moved that a Commission be appointed to inquire into and report to the Government upon the question of what portion of the buildings situated on the land resumed under the provisions of the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance should be destroyed

and what portion should not. The hon. gentleman urged that all that was necessary might be done without having recourse to such wholesale destruction as had been proposed. "If," he said, "the Commission decide that the original plan of destruction must be carried out, I and many who think with me will have the satisfaction of knowing that the question has had every possible consideration in all its aspects; but, on the other hand, if the decision of the Commission coincides with our idea, a large sum of money will have been saved to our at present hard pressed colony." The Hon. A. McCONACHIE seconded the resolution and said he had himself originally been of opinion the whole area should be destroyed, but on examining the property very carefully the impression was forced upon him that "there was a great deal of excellent property, excellent streets of concrete, well laid down channels, and excellent granite steps, and much other valuable property which it was not entirely necessary to destroy." The resolution was defeated by six votes to five, the unofficial members (with the exception of the Hon. Ho KAI) and the Harbour Master voting for it, and the official members (with the exception of the Harbour Master) and the Hon. Ho KAI against. The principal reason for negating the resolution seems to have been that the Governor and those gentlemen who had committed themselves to the view that total destruction was necessary would be placed in an "awkward position" if total destruction was not carried out. With the lapse of time, however, this awkwardness may perhaps be less felt and possibly when the resolution, or a similar one, is brought forward again, as we hear it is likely to be, the Government may be more favourably disposed towards it, especially as the principle that some property may safely be spared has been conceded by the Director of Public Works, so that the question now resolves itself merely into one of amount.

The Hon. F. A. COOPER, in his report of the 22nd March last, recommends the total demolition of the whole of the buildings within the resumed area with the exception of the buildings on inland lot 361 and twenty-eight houses erected on inland lots 592 and 593. These he would spare. And if these, why not others? Mr. COOPER admits there are some blocks of houses which perhaps leave little to be desired except an increase in the width of the lanes at their back, but a retention of these intact would, he says, prejudicially affect to a large extent the improvement of the district as a whole both from a sanitary and financial point of view. This is the point of difference. It has been suggested that many of the blocks could be saved and that with comparatively slight alterations a sufficient width could be obtained for the lanes. For Mr. COOPER's individual opinion we have the highest respect, but we submit the matter is too large a one to be decided on one man's opinion only, and that a committee of local experts could dispose of it more satisfactorily. The resumption of the property has cost the Government \$800,000. The number of houses resumed was 417, which, at an average value of \$750 per house, gives \$312,750 as the total value of the buildings proposed to be destroyed, less what may be realised by the sale of the few houses that Mr. COOPER would allow to remain. It is proposed that 70,000 square feet should be utilised in the making of new streets, which at \$2 a foot would give a value of \$140,000, and the amount proposed to be spent on the reconstruction of streets, etc., is \$83,000. The total area resumed was 272,021 square feet, and the area available for rebuilding, according

to Mr. COOPER's scheme, is 188,152 square feet, which might realise when sold \$376,000. Roughly speaking the loss to the colony on the transaction would be half a million dollars. It is believed that by a modified scheme of reconstruction, which would comply with all sanitary requirements, this loss might be reduced to a quarter of a million, or even less. The amount involved is sufficiently large to justify a reference of the whole subject to a committee of experts, for the colony can hardly be content to be guided entirely by the opinion of one man in a matter of such magnitude.

THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

The Bill for regulating the licensing of private vehicles was passed at Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council, but is hardly likely, we think, to receive the sanction of the Secretary of State in its present form. If a person wishes to keep a carriage he has, according to this new measure, to apply for a licence the granting of which is to be "in the discretion of the officer appointed to issue the same." No one henceforth will be entitled to keep a carriage as of right, but only by favour of a Government official. A provision of that kind is opposed to English ideas of right and liberty. Carriages are a fair subject for taxation if additional revenue is required, but any one willing to pay the tax ought to be entitled to keep his carriage without further question. The same considerations apply to vehicles used for business purposes. A person having occasion to use a cart or truck in connection with his trade ought not to be dependent on the good will and favour of a Government officer, even the Governor himself, for permission to do so. We hear that representations are to be made to the Secretary of State against the measure.

THE REBELLION IN FORMOSA.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS." SHANGHAI, 27th May.

Considerable quantities of munitions have been shipped hence to Formosa.

The Japanese were sighted off Tamsui yesterday.

Telegrams are much delayed.

Taipeifu, 17th May.

Chinese official circles are a trifle stirred up over the report that the Japanese will arrive in two weeks. In conversing with General Tchong Ki-tong, late of the Paris Legation, who arrived here several days ago to act as adviser to the Governor, I was informed that the above report was fully credited by the Governor and himself. In discussing the probable reception of the Japanese, it was the General's opinion that the Chinese would make considerable trouble, and that it would be some time before they would settle down and submit peacefully to Japanese rule.

Formosa was declared independent and notification was sent to that effect to the Tsungli Yamen (Foreign Office) at Peking yesterday. General Ku Hung-kuk, who I have mentioned in my previous letter, is at the head of the new government, and many of the most influential men in the central part of the island have joined him. A meeting was held yesterday with the Governor, but what transpired has been kept secret; whether the Governor sanctions this rebellious movement or not is difficult to ascertain; at least he is not in a position to interfere or to even disapprove, for his head would probably pay the penalty for such indiscretion. After the meeting the main government was notified and the following proclamation was published about the city:—

"China has been so insulted by the Japanese that all the Chinese should be angry with them. Therefore, we the *literati* and all the populace ought to join together and oppose the Japanese if they dare to land. If anyone sympathises

with the Japanese they will be seized and killed at once."

"(Signed).—All the populace of Formosa."

It is thought the above does not express the feeling of at least the Chinese merchants and farmers, who may be only too glad to get rid of the mandarins, the squeezes, and corrupt government. Ku Hung-kuk claims to have over 100,000 volunteer soldiers, and says that if the Japanese succeed in capturing the north and south of the island, he will not resist them, but all central Formosa has been declared independent, and neither China nor Japan shall be its rulers.

It is very reasonable to believe that the Governor intends to fight the Japanese when they arrive, and the meeting held yesterday with Ku Hung-kuk and his officers was for the purpose of enlisting their services. The fact that 1,000 Cantonese soldiers arrived by the steamer *Martha* three days ago, and 1,500 more are expected in a few days, and that more rifles and ammunition are being landed from every Chinese steamer, it scarcely looks as though the Governor intended to peacefully hand over the island, although the excuse given is that a few days ago it was thought that France would interfere, so that the additional men and ammunition might be needed.

The sum of \$500,000 is expected from the Viceroy at Nanking to the Governor, which might be accounted for as the result of a little diplomatic thinking in Peking. "We the Imperial Government cede Formosa to the Japanese, but we do not guarantee that the inhabitants there will peacefully submit to their rule. They may rebel and defeat the Japanese, which would be so much the better for us; therefore let us encourage them a bit."

18th May.

Ku Hung-kuk, mentioned in my yesterday's letter, was ordered to appear before the Governor, but refused point blank. His strength is growing daily, the natives near his district flocking to join his standard. Anarchy prevails in the Kapsulan district and it is not safe to convey valuables along the highway. The Geelan *hsien* has succeeded in capturing and decapitating a number of offenders, but it had no effect in lessening the revolt, which threatens the whole neighbourhood.

TIENTSIN, 19th May.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang's son, Li Chin-fang, has been appointed Commissioner to undertake the odious duty of handing over Formosa to the Japanese.

PEKING, 19th May.

The appointment of Li Chin-fang as Commissioner to deliver over Formosa to Japan was the result of the hostile combination against Li Hung-chang's Treaty at Peking. The argument used was that as Li Chin-fang had so willingly consented to Japan's demands for the cession of the island it should be his duty to bring the matter to a conclusion by handing the island of Formosa personally to the Japanese Commissioners. No excuses will be accepted by the Emperor.

TIENTSIN, 22nd May.

Mr. Foster has left here to join Li Chin-fang on his mission to Formosa.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE JAPANESE RESCRIPT ON THE RETROCESSION OF LIAOTUNG.

The following translation of the Japanese Emperor's rescript on the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula is published by the *Japan Mail*:—

We recently complied with the request of China and in consequence appointed Plenipotentiaries and caused them to confer with the Plenipotentiaries appointed by China and to conclude a Treaty of Peace between the two Empires.

Since then the Governments of Their Majesties the Emperors of Russia and Germany and of the Republic of France have united in a recommendation to Our Government not to permanently possess the Peninsula of Feng-Tien, Our newly acquired territory, on the ground that such permanent possession would be detrimental to the lasting peace of the Orient.

Devoted as We unalterably are and ever have been to the principles of Peace, We were constrained to take up arms against China for no other reason than Our desire to secure for the Orient an enduring peace.

Now the friendly recommendation of the three

Powers was equally prompted by the same desire. Consulting therefore the best interests of peace and animated by a desire not to bring upon Our people added hardship or to impede the progress of national destiny by creating new complications and thereby making the situation difficult and retarding the restoration of peace, We do not hesitate to accept such recommendation.

By concluding the Treaty of Peace, China has already shown her sincerity of regret for the violation of her engagements and thereby the justice of Our cause has been proclaimed to the world.

Under these circumstances, We can find nothing to impair the honour and dignity of Our empire if We now yield to the dictates of magnanimity and, taking into consideration the general situation, accept the advice of the friendly Powers.

Accordingly we have commanded Our Government and have caused them to reply to the three Powers in the above sense.

Regarding the arrangements by which we will renounce the permanent possession of the Peninsula, we have specially commanded Our Government that the necessary measures shall be made the subject of future negotiations and adjustment with the Government of China.

Now the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of Peace has already been effected; the friendly relations between the two Empires have been re-established, and cordial relations with all other powers are also strengthened.

We therefore command Our subjects to respect Our will; to take into careful consideration the general situation; to be circumspect in all things; to avoid erroneous tendencies; and not to impair or thwart the high aspirations of Our Empire.

The 10th day, the 5th month, of the 28th year of Meiji.

(L.S.) [Imperial Sign-Manual]
(Countersigned) By all Ministers of State.

ROBBERY BY SERVANTS.

The police are enquiring into a robbery which took place on Friday at Mr. Arratoon Seth's house, Norman Cottage, Peak Road. In the early morning Mr. Seth had to go out before he had his matutinal bath, and he returned home about noon. He then decided to have his bath, and thereupon placed a gold watch and chain, a gold ring, and a gold pencil case in a drawer of his dressing table. He returned in about ten minutes and dressed, but did not go to the drawer for his watch and chain. About one o'clock Mrs. Seth went to the drawer for a pencil, and at that time the articles mentioned were not there, and she concluded that Mr. Seth was wearing them. It was not until eight o'clock that Mr. Seth himself missed his property, and he at once informed the police. A tailor had been employed in the house, and Mr. Seth remembered that this man and two washermen were on the verandah, and near his room, when he put the articles in the drawer. He also remembered that about three o'clock in the afternoon the tailor endeavoured to leave the house, but as he had not completed his day's work Mrs. Seth ordered him to remain. These circumstances led Mr. Seth to suspect the tailor, who was arrested, when he made certain statements which incriminated the washermen, and they were also arrested. They were taken before Mr. Wodehouse on Saturday and remanded. The articles are valued at \$600, but apart from the intrinsic worth of the watch, Mr. Seth prizes it very highly, as it had been in his family over a hundred years. It was made in London in 1787, and naturally Mr. Seth is very anxious to recover it.

The robbery from Mr. Seth's house has culminated in the recovery of the much prized watch, but not the other articles, and the dismissal and apprehension of the whole of the servants. At the Police Court on Monday the two washermen who were arrested were discharged on the application of Inspector Stanton, and the tailor was placed with nine servants and all were charged with complicity in the robbery, and remanded until Saturday. The watch was found in a drawer in the room, but not in the drawer in which it was first placed.

The steamer *Renown*, which arrived at Nagasaki from Cardiff on the 19th inst., has, the *Nuasgaki Express* hears, been sold to the Japanese. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are reported to be the purchasers; they will re-christen her *Asosan Maru*.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. G. WISE, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving was sworn in as a member of the Council, and he thereupon took his seat.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE PROPER CARE OF ANIMALS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move the approval by this Council of certain by-laws made by the Sanitary Board under section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. These by-laws deal with the removal to the depots of animals, and with their proper care while in the depots.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded. By-laws approved.

AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, with reference to the statement of the Superintendent of the Afforestation Department showing disbursements for forestry works in 1896 and 1897, which has been in the hands of hon. members of the Council, I have to move the following resolution:—"That the Council having considered the statement by the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department resolves that it is expedient to incur the liability proposed to be incurred in 1897."

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I second that.

Carried.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I have the honour to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of \$355,395.83 to defray the charges of the year 1894."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Have you any explanation to make in regard to that Bill?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I will make the explanation in Committee.

Bill read the first time.

THE WEARING OF NAVAL AND MILITARY UNIFORMS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to regulate and restrict the wearing of naval and military uniforms."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read the first time.

The standing orders were suspended.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of this Bill I have only to state very shortly its objects. It was drafted in accordance with a Bill sent out from home, and it is simply for the purpose of preventing the wearing of military and naval uniforms by persons not entitled to wear them. It is practically the same as the one at home. The first section gives the definition of military forces, and then it goes on to say that military uniforms shall not be used by persons not in the army and navy. There are certain exemptions in regard to public performances and so forth, and section 4 mentions the penalties for wearing such uniform.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read a second and third time, and passed.

THE SANITARY COMMITTEES ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make provisions for the furtherance of the more effectual enforcement of sanitary measures."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I second that. Bill read the first time.

The standing orders were suspended.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In

moving the second reading of this Bill, I have only this to state, that under section 12 of Ordinance 24 of 1887, Select Committees may be appointed, but they have powers to act only between the meetings of the Sanitary Board. This is a Bill which empowers the Sanitary Board to appoint Select Committees which will have general powers at any time, and now that the Permanent Committee has been cut down, I think it is most desirable that these Committees should be appointed to carry out sanitary measures. It will be seen that the Sanitary Board can delegate its powers to Select Committees, and there are penalties provided for any breach of the Ordinance.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have the honour to second the second reading of this Bill, and in doing so I beg to make a few remarks. The work which devolves on the Sanitary Board has greatly increased during recent years, and it is practically impossible it can be carried on in a systematic and expeditious way if all matters must be brought before the Board. The object of the Bill is therefore to enable the Board from time to time to appoint Committees amongst which the ordinary routine work of the Board may be divided. These Committees may consist of two members and not less than one member and one executive officer, who can easily arrange to meet and conduct the business when a full meeting of the Board would not only be unnecessary but under many circumstances absolutely impossible. The absence last year of any such provisions as are in this Bill necessitated the Council to pass a special Ordinance to authorise the acts of a Permanent Committee appointed to deal with the outbreak of bubonic plague. Had this Ordinance been then in force these exceptional measures would not have been necessary, for the Board could then have appointed three or four of its members to do the work. That the Permanent Committee did very excellent work we all very well know, and fulfilled its functions ably, but it is unfortunate in some ways that the Committee to all intents and purposes acted independently of the Board as a whole, and I may state that, as far as I am aware, neither the Board nor the Government has yet received a full and complete report of the work performed by that Committee. Under this Ordinance the Committees will be responsible to the Board, the work will be done by the usual executive officers of the Board, and full and complete records will be kept in the offices of the Board of all work done. If there is any further explanation that members would like I shall be glad to make it when we go into Committee. With these few remarks I beg to second the second reading of the Bill.

Bill read the second and third time and passed.

THE RATING ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Rating Ordinance, 1888."

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I second that. Bill read the first time.

CROWN REMEDIES.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Crown Remedies Ordinance, 1875."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I second that. Bill read the first time.

THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Magistrates Ordinance (10 of 1890)."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded. Bill read the first time.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill I may state that this Ordinance is drafted on instructions from home. Under section 80 of the Magistrates Ordinance, a magistrate is allowed to give twelve months' imprisonment as the maximum penalty. This was considered to be too much, and directions were given for it to be reduced to six months.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read the second time.

In Committee the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL added this proviso—"Nothing in this Ordinance shall affect any greater punishment specifically provided for in any other past or future Ordinance."

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE—Can we deal with the future?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—You can deal with it yourself at a future time.

Bill read the third time and passed.

AN AMENDING ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 17 of 1887."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the first time.

The standing orders were suspended.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The information so far is very bald indeed—No. 17 of 1887. Notice was sent to us only early this morning. I tried to find out what the Ordinance was, but unfortunately was unable to find it. I think it would be better if the second reading were left over to the next meeting. The necessary information should be inserted in the Bill, so that we may know exactly what it refers to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The object of the Bill being clear on the face of it, explanation does not appear necessary. It is merely the insertion of one word—"Government" depot, which means that the animals are to be taken to the Government depot.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—This is one of many similar Ordinances that are put before us. I think the old arrangement should be continued—the information should be supplied in the Bill itself. I have no objection now that I know exactly what the Bill is.

HIS EXCELLENCY—There is nothing on the face of the Ordinance to show what it refers to.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill, I have only to state that the Ordinance was introduced on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board, who had no power to restrict these depots to Government depots. It is provided that these depots shall be under the control of the Sanitary Board, by which they should be licensed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Bill was read a second time and the Council went into Committee upon it.

Dr. HO KAI—I think longer notice should have been given, so that those who are affected by the Bill might be consulted.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—About two months ago the Board gave notice to the effect that no premises would be licensed for the keeping of swine or pigs. There are no premises licensed at present for the keeping of swine or pigs.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I do not see the necessity of tabooring private depots, provided they are kept according to the regulations. What object can there be in tabooring private depots?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—The Government has erected depots at a large cost. They will only charge a reasonable price, and it is only fair that the whole of the animals should go there.

Hon. C. P. CHATER asked for the third reading to be postponed, and this was agreed to.

THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance for regulating the licensing of private vehicles," I may state that the Bill now before hon. members is somewhat different from the one that came before the Council on the first reading. I think you have all seen the amendments proposed, and I believe they have been agreed to to a great extent. Therefore I shall, in Committee, move that the amendments be added to the Bill. This Bill deals with all private vehicles. Ordinance 21 of 1887 dealt with public vehicles, and it must be within the knowledge of all of you that a nuisance has been created by the trucks and trollies that come at full speed out of side streets and rush out without any control. This is a very dangerous practice, and accidents are bound to come. There have been none so far, but that is more by good luck than anything else. This Bill regulates these trucks and trollies, and you are bound to take every one in your net, and regulate the traffic for all private vehicles—for the man who has a brougham, and the man who has a dog cart. That is only common fairness. You cannot deal with one man without dealing with all. The Bill deals with a variety of things, but exempts private jinrickshas, private chairs, bicycles, perambulators, trunks and cars in use on tramways, or such other vehicles as the Governor in Council may from time to time exempt. Under section 4 there is a provision for the regulation of all private vehicles whether licensed or not, and there

will be special means for identifying the vehicles—I presume by numbers. The section also provides for the issue of licenses by an officer, either the Registrar-General or the Captain Superintendent of Police—most likely the Captain Superintendent of Police. Section 6 states the offences against the Ordinance and section 7 gives the penalties.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second the second reading of the Bill, and in doing so I have very little to add to what the hon. the Attorney-General has said. There is only one point to which I might draw attention, and that is the question of fees. The hon. the senior unofficial member and his colleagues, to whom this Bill was referred after it had been read a first time, sent in their opinion, stating they saw no reason why the Bill should not become law. At the same time they pointed out that the Bill should not be utilised for the purposes of raising revenue, and that the fees should be purely nominal. On behalf of the Government I beg to state that the fees to be paid will be purely nominal. With these few remarks I beg to second the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee the Hon. C. P. CHATER said—We are of opinion that the fee should not extend \$2 per annum.

Bill passed through all its stages and passed.

The Council then adjourned until next Thursday. His Excellency stating that he hoped that meeting would be the last for the summer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

EXTENSION OF ROADS AT KOWLOON.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The first minute I have to bring before the Committee is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the sum of \$3,824.13 for the extension of the Macdonnell and Austin Roads at Kowloon. This is a re-vote, and is the unexpended balance of the sum voted for 1894.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded. Carried.

THE REMUNERATION OF THE TAIPINGSHAN ARBITRATORS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The next minute is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote the sum of \$20,000 for expenses incurred in connection with the resumption of Taipingshan. It will be within the memory of hon. members of this Committee that a vote of \$300,000 was taken in Council some time ago in connection with the resumption of the area in Taipingshan. That sum has been found not to be sufficient, and the Treasurer will furnish the Committee with any information on that subject which the members desire. One of the reasons for exceeding that vote is due to the remuneration that is to be paid to the arbitrators. The question of remuneration to be paid to these gentlemen has been under consideration for some time, and the Governor referred the matter to the unofficial members for their opinion. I will read what their opinion is on the subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY read the letter, which recommended the payment to Mr. Alford, who represented the unofficial members, of one half of one per cent. on the total amount to be paid; such remuneration, however, not to exceed \$4,000.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (continuing)—The total amount has exceeded eight lakhs, and the amount of \$4,000, which the unofficial members thought ought to be the limit, has been reached. I should like, therefore, to hear any views that any members of the Committee may have to offer on this subject before I ask whether they recommend the vote.

Hon. E. B. BELLIOS—I suppose the \$20,000, added to the \$800,000, will be the maximum sum that the Taipingshan property will cost.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That will cover the cost of resumption and fees in connection with the said cost.

Hon. E. B. BELLIOS—Everything connected with the resumption?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With the actual resumption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Taking all claims there will be \$126 72 over that amount.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Perhaps it will be the most business-like way to add this amount to the present vote.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think that is the right course to pursue if it is within our power to do so. If his Excellency is in his room the amount can be easily altered.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It is a matter not of supreme importance. We can bring the \$126 up later.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The matter was before the unofficial members of the Council, and they went into the question very thoroughly, and the decision arrived at was the unanimous one that the sum proposed in the letter that I addressed to you should be given as an honorarium to the arbitrator appointed by the unofficial members of the Council. That being the case the other arbitrator would be entitled to a similar sum, and I shall be prepared either to second the resolution or to bring it forward that the sum proposed by us should be given to the arbitrators. In so doing I may take this opportunity of congratulating the arbitrators on bringing so delicate a matter to so satisfactory a conclusion. In a matter of this nature it is inevitable that there should be some grumblers, but I am of opinion all are satisfied that their claims have had the fullest and most patient enquiry and investigation. That being the case I shall have very much pleasure in seconding the motion proposed by you or supporting it.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I think \$4,000 is far too much. \$3,000 would be ample.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I am inclined to agree with the Treasurer somewhat. 4,000 is as much as the yearly salary of a considerable number of what have been termed "highly-paid Government officials," and it would be interesting to know what value is placed upon their own services by gentlemen who do not come under this category. It would also be interesting, if you are in a position to give the Committee that information, how many meetings there were of the arbitrators, and the number of hours in the aggregate that were involved in the arbitration. If it is not in your power to give the information now, I would not ask for delay of the question at all. It could be furnished at any time. The question could be put to the Committee now, but this is an interesting point from the official point of view.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have not the information before me now. Of course it can very easily be obtained.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL (to Hon. C. P. CHATER)—You have the number of meetings, have you not?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—No. Perhaps I may state that one of the points which weighed in the minds of the unofficial members was that no property in Hongkong ever changes hands without a commission being allowed by the seller or the buyer. Very often a commission of one per cent. is allowed by the seller and one per cent. by the buyer. We put it at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total sum to be paid by the Government for the resumption of Taipingshan. That $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was not to exceed \$4,000. The Chairman has just informed us that the total amount necessary for the resumption of Taipingshan has exceeded \$800,000, and therefore $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the sum exceeding \$800,000 would be a sum of over \$4,000. It was by this means that we arrived at the figures, \$4,000. If \$4,000 be allowed to one arbitrator, the same sum ought to be allowed to the other, as the two arbitrators did equal work. We thought one per cent. of the total, \$800,000, would be a fair honorarium to the two arbitrators. I think, with that information before honourable members, they will be of opinion that we have not exceeded or given more than we probably ought to have. No property ever changes hands in Hongkong under a commission of one per cent. at least.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I am not aware that that rule would be binding upon the Government, although I admit it may be a very excellent reason for guiding the unofficial members if a reason is wanted.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I mention these facts only to let hon. members know how we arrived at the sum, and, in arriving at the sum, we did not arrive at a figure which was considerably over what is the custom in the colony.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Does this sum of \$320,000 include everything?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes; also the remuneration for the arbitrators.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Do the actual awards exceed \$800,000?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I should say so, but I have not the figures.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—We took the total cost of the purchase of the property from the vendors. We treated the matter as a purchase and a sale—a purchase by the Government, and a sale by the lessees to the Government.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—You must remember that the Government had a very great benefit from the experience of Mr. Alford and Mr. Danby.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Mr. Danby appeared simply as a party elected by the lot holders.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I gather from the remarks made by hon. members that there is a slight difference of opinion as to the amount of remuneration to be paid. But I am quite sure there is no difference of opinion as to the manner in which the duties of arbitrators were discharged—(hear, hear)—by Acting Chief Justice Ackroyd, Mr. Alford, and Mr. Danby. The duties were performed in a manner which gave great satisfaction to the community generally and it is therefore perhaps somewhat unfortunate that there should be a divergence of opinion as to the amount of remuneration to be granted. I take it from the remarks that have fallen that those who consider the remuneration somewhat high are in the minority; so I think I am safe in saying that the vote is recommended to the Legislative Council, and that therefore I am authorised to bring the vote up at the next meeting of the Council.

The HARBOUR MASTER—From my remarks it may be thought that I meant to imply that \$4,000 was too much. I did not mean to imply that. I merely wanted to know how the amount was arrived at. I compared it to the yearly salary of Government officials. I did not know what amount of work it represented. I did not mean to imply that \$4,000 was too much.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think we are in possession of the views of members. We understand the views of the Colonial Treasurer and the Harbour Master, and it appears to me there is no necessity to delay any longer. If honourable members have nothing further to say I take it that the majority of this Committee is of opinion that this vote should be recommended.

The vote was thereupon recommended.

At Tientsin on the 10th instant, we learn from the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, a stoker belonging to H.M.S. *Swift*, Jesse Hall by name, went on board the worse of liquor. His state being observed by the officer of the watch Hall was ordered below, but instead of complying he made a rush to the side of the ship, and jumped overboard in order to "break out" of the ship. The officer of the watch several times ordered him to come out of the river, but he was obstinate and kept swimming about the ship and finally the officer of the watch (Lieut. Clarke) jumped overboard after him. Hall immediately dived, with the evident intention of passing under the ship and getting across the river. However, he did not come up again, and Lieut. Clarke dived several times in the hope of finding him. A boat was quickly lowered from the *Swift*, but no trace of him could be found. On Sunday, the 12th, the body was found close to where the *Swift* had been moored. As Hall was one of the best swimmers in the ship it is supposed that he must have got under the cable, and was unable to extricate himself. The deceased was about 24 years old and of fine physique, and we are told, as a rule, sober and well behaved. At the adjourned inquest held on the morning of the 15th a verdict of accidental drowning was found by the jurors, Messrs. H. St. Clair Knox, W. H. Forbes, and E. Cousins, H. B. M. Consul officiating as coroner. The funeral took place the same day, a party of *Swifts* having come up from Taku by train to attend. The cortege was preceded by the Public Band with muffled drums.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held Wednesday afternoon. The Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, presided, and there were also present Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Acting Colonial Surgeon, Surgeon-Major Westcott, Acting Medical Officer, Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary.

MINUTES.

The SECRETARY read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were confirmed.

AMOY FREE FROM PLAGUE.

The following telegram, which had been received by the Government from the Consul at Amoy, was read:—"Amoy is reported by Medical Officer to be free from plague."

THE GOVERNOR THANKS THE BOARD.

The Secretary read the following letter:—"Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th May, 1895.

"Sir,—I am directed to convey to the Sanitary Board an expression of the Governor's appreciation of the prompt measures taken by the Board to prevent the spread of plague, and to state that His Excellency trusts that the success which has so far attended the exertions of the Board will be an additional incentive to the continuance of its efforts to place the colony in a clean and sanitary condition.—I have the honour &c.,

"J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary."

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the week ended 4th May was 17.5 per 1,000 per annum, compared with 25.7 in the corresponding week last year. For the week ended 11th May the death rate was 17.5 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 46.9 at the corresponding period last year; and for the week ended 18th May 15.5 as compared with 64 in the corresponding week last year.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MARKETS.

A letter was read stating that the Governor approved the appointment of P. S. Alexander Watson to be Assistant Inspector of Markets on three months' probation at a salary of \$720 per annum, rising by yearly increments of \$48 to \$960, in addition to a rent allowance of \$240 per annum.

HAWKING IN THE STREETS STOPPED.

The question of hawking in the streets dropped up on an application made by Mr. Dennys for licences for certain shops. Mr. Ladds, in writing on the matter, referred to the practice of hawking in the street, and recommended that it be disallowed in the neighbourhood of the markets.

The PRESIDENT—This question of hawking in the streets appears to be one which the Board should make some recommendations to the Government about. Now that the new Central Market is opened there is ample accommodation for the sale of food supplies in the centre of the city, and I think the hawking, as far as possible, should be stopped, as it materially adds to the difficulty of maintaining the streets in a sanitary condition. One constantly sees sugar cane and material of that kind in the channels and gullies, and besides obstructing the traffic, it depreciates the value of the stalls in the Central Market. I do not think we have authority ourselves to take any steps in the matter. The Governor in Council has power to license certain persons to sell food supplies in the streets and in private premises. The Colonial Secretary has recently informed us that his Excellency will cancel all these licences at the end of this month.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Selling in shops?

The PRESIDENT—Yes. I therefore move the following resolution:—"That this correspondence be forwarded for the information of his Excellency the Governor; and the Board especially desires, as far as possible, that no licences shall be issued for the selling of food supplies in the shops, or for hawking in the streets, beyond what is absolutely necessary."

CONCRETE FLOORS.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner wrote, as follows to the Secretary:—"There are two questions arising out of Ordinance 15 of 1894, and the by-laws thereunder, to which we shall be obliged if you can favour us with an early answer. 1st. As regards section 1 of the by-laws, it says, 'The material to be used for covering the ground surface

of all domestic buildings shall be good lime or cement concrete at least 6 in. thick, finished off smooth to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board.' As the majority of the ground floors of domestic buildings are used as shops and the Chinese prefer having them paved with red Canton tiles (for the sake of the appearance), we shall be obliged if you will inform us if the Board will approve of 6 in. lime concrete covered with one course 1½ in. Canton tiles and pointed with cement. 2nd. Under section 15 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 the Board has power to grant certificates that the different matters under the Ordinance have been done to its satisfaction. We shall be obliged by your informing us if the Board intend to exercise that power."

The PRESIDENT said that the majority of the tiles were not, strictly speaking, impervious, but if the concrete was properly smoothed, he proposed to inform Messrs. Palmer and Turner that there would be no objection to the tiles.

ALTERATIONS AT THE CENTRAL MARKET.

Mr. LADDS, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, made certain recommendations for alterations in the coolie arrangements in the Central Market. On the motion of the President it was resolved to forward the recommendations to the Colonial Secretary for the favourable consideration of the Governor.

MACAO MERCHANTS AND THEIR VEGETABLES.

The Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company made an application for permits to allow Chinese merchants to come from Macao with their vegetables.

The President moved the following resolution:—"That the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board considers, under existing circumstances, the granting of any such permits attendant with danger."

Carried.

The Board adjourned until to-day fortnight.

SUPREME COURT.

23rd May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & CO. v. AIREY.

Messrs. Dakin, Cruickshank, & Co., Limited brought an action against A. C. Airey to recover \$39, money received by defendant on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Mr. Rowley (from Mr. Dennys's office) appeared for the plaintiffs, and said that the defendant admitted the receipt of the money, and therefore the onus of proving that the money had been paid over to the plaintiffs was thrown upon the defendant.

Defendant said he admitted having received the money, which he had paid to the plaintiffs.

Mr. T. G. Joy, manager to the plaintiffs, said that the defendant was engaged as temporary harbour assistant on 11th September last. It was his duty to collect orders, receive money from the customers, and hand it over each day to witness. Defendant should have left the plaintiffs' employ on 15th January, but for some reason or other he left on 10th or 11th January. Mr. Goodwin succeeded him, and when he applied to Mr. Colquhoun, of the steamer *Sikh*, for a debt of \$35, he was shown a receipt given by defendant. There was also an account of \$4 standing against Mr. George, of the *Belgic*. This had also been paid to the defendant, but neither of the amounts had been paid over to the credit of the firm. In the early days the defendant entered the amounts received in a note book, but latterly he had a receipt book, and kept the counterfoils. When defendant handed over the money the items were entered in a book in his presence.

In cross-examination witness said he did not give defendant receipts for money paid. Witness could not say whether it was defendant who suggested that a printed receipt book should be used, and he was not quite certain whether the present harbour assistant had a receipt book, the counterfoils in which showed the amounts paid to him. Witness had not received any money lately; it had been paid to Mr. Hughes, the first assistant. Witness balanced the cash in the morning, and as a rule the accounts did not balance. There had been no material differ-

ence in the balance since defendant had left plaintiffs' employ.

Mr. Goodwin spoke to being shown the receipts when he made application for the money, and in cross-examination said he had no distinct recollection of defendant receiving, in his presence, seven \$5 notes from Mr. Colquhoun on the *Sikh*.

The defendant, in his evidence, said he had paid over the amounts, and that "the business was run recklessly." He was not given receipts when he paid the money to the manager. Witness paid Mr. George's account on 18th December, and Mr. Colquhoun's account on 3rd January and each was included in a sum amount, a memorandum of which he produced.

Cross-examined—Inopportune times occasionally prevented him from checking the amounts paid by him and entered by Mr. Joy in the book. His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs with costs.

25th May.

MANUK v. W. SHEWAN.—JUDGMENT.

This was an action brought to recover a sum of \$288, the amount of a compradore order drawn by the defendant, payable to S. I. Danby or order, endorsed over to the plaintiff.

Mr. C. D. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. C. Ellis (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) for the defendant.

In delivering judgment his Lordship said—This is an action upon a compradore's order, which is in the following form:—

Hongkong, 31st March, 1895.

Compradore.

Pay (a Chinese character) S. I. Danby, Esq., or order, the sum of dollars two hundred and fifty only.

Account.

\$250.00.

W. SHEWAN.

This order was indorsed by Mr. Danby to Mr. Manuk or order, who indorsed it to the Chartered Bank of India, &c., or order. The indorsement by the Bank was in these words, "received payment for the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China.—Jas. S. Bruce, p. Manager, Hongkong." On being presented for payment payment was refused. The first indorsee now sues the drawer for \$250. The question in this case is—What is the nature of this compradore's order? Is it an instrument within the definitions of a bill of exchange, promissory note, or cheque, or is it an instrument *per se* *generis*, depending for negotiability on universal usage entitled to be recognised as part of the law merchant? If this compradore's order comes within the categories of a bill of exchange, or a promissory note, or a cheque, no amount of usage adduced to prove that it has hitherto not been treated as coming under any one of such categories can avail to put it outside them; for "to give effect to a usage which involves a defiance or disregard of the law would be obviously contrary to a fundamental principle." (Goodwin v. Roberts, L.R. 10 Ex. at p. 357.) A cheque is a bill of exchange drawn on a banker, payable on demand, and a banker includes a body of persons, whether incorporated or not, who carry on the business of banking. A compradore does not come within this definition of a banker; therefore an order on him cannot be a cheque. A promissory note is an unconditional promise in writing made by one person to another, signed by the maker, engaging to pay on demand or at a fixed or determinable future time a sum certain in money to, or to the order of, a specified person or to bearer. To a promissory note there are only two parties, the maker and the payee. In this compradore's order there are three parties, viz., the drawer, the drawee, and the payee. As there was no evidence tendered in this case to show that the drawer and the drawee were practically the same person, I must look to the face of the document itself, which distinctly discloses the presence of three parties. On this ground then the instrument in question is not, in my opinion, a promissory note. A bill of exchange is an unconditional order in writing addressed by one person to another signed by the person giving it, requiring the person to whom it is addressed to pay on demand or at a fixed or determinable future time a sum certain in money to, or to the order of, a specified person or to bearer. The usual form of an inland bill of exchange payable on demand to order (and all bills of exchange are deemed payable on demand

in the absence of any expressed, fixed, or determinable future time) is as follows:—

£100 London, 1st January, 1895.

Pay to Mr. A. B. or order the sum of one hundred pounds to value received.

To E. F., Esq.

C. D.

The compradore's order under consideration is unconditional and in writing; it is addressed by one person, W. Shewan, to another, viz., the compradore of Shewan and Co.; it is signed by the person, W. Shewan, who gives it and it requires the person, viz., Shewan and Co.'s compradore, to whom it is addressed, to pay on demand a certain sum in money, viz., \$250, to or to the order of a specified person, to wit, S. I. Danby. All the elements that go to make up a bill of exchange appear in the compradore's order in question; and no elements appear in the compradore's order which are not essential to a bill of exchange. As regards the forms of the two instruments, the one form is a facsimile of the other, except that the superfluous words "for value received" found in the form of a bill of exchange are omitted from the form of this compradore's order. Though the drawee, viz., Shewan and Co.'s compradore, is not named in the instrument under examination, it is sufficient if he be indicated, as is done here, with reasonable certainty. No evidence was adduced to show the relation between the drawer and drawee, whether they were separate or practically identical persons. If the drawee were a fellow employee of the drawer, the drawee would be "another" person within the definition of a bill of exchange; if the drawee were a servant of the drawer, the two would practically constitute the same person and the holder might then treat the instrument at his option as either a bill of exchange or a promissory note. On its face, however, the document before the Court reveals the presence of three persons. For these reasons I conclude that this compradore's order is a bill of exchange under Ordinance No. 9 of 1885; it is therefore an instrument which, by section 10 (2) of Ordinance No. 16 of 1886, may not be stamped after execution, and therefore, by section 9 of the same Ordinance, it is an instrument which cannot be received as creating, transferring, or extinguishing any right or obligation, or as evidence in any civil proceeding in any Court of Justice in the colony. Having come to this decision, the alternative question of whether this compradore's order is an instrument *sui generis* depending for negotiability on the *lex mercatoria* must be answered in the negative. Judgment must therefore be for defendant, with costs.

Mr. Ellis—My Lord, before closing the case I want to make a statement in regard to my client. The defence which has been taken up, and which your Lordship upheld, is truly a technical one. But there was a moral defence to the suit which I did not bring, because it did not constitute a legal defence. I did not make that statement while the suit was going on because I did not want to hamper the case with unnecessary facts. The compradore's order was given by Mr. Shewan to Mr. Danby to enable Mr. Danby to obtain back for Mr. Shewan shares which Mr. Shewan had lent to Mr. Danby. The shares were not returned, and Mr. Shewan was unaware that his order had been handed over to any other person; and it was because the shares had not been returned that he refused to take up the promissory note and was compelled to resort to this legal defence.

Mr. Wilkinson—I have very little doubt that what my friend states is correct. I do not suppose Mr. Shewan would have defended the case if he had not had a moral defence.

According to an official telegram from Peking received by the mandarins at Shanghai on the 19th inst. at the Palace Examinations for the Hanlin degree on the 18th, his Majesty was pleased to confer the much coveted title of *Chuang-yuan*, or Optimus, upon Luh Ch'eng-siang a native of Szechuan province. Yu Ch'ang-lin, a native of Chekiang, obtained *Peng-yen*, or Secundus; and Wang Wen-lung, a native of Hunan, the *Tan-hua*, or Tertius degree. The above three are called the *I-chia* or First Class. The head of the Hanlin or *Erh-chia* (Second Class) who obtains the title of *Ch'uan-lu*, or Quartus, was given to Siao Yung-chio, also a native of Hunan.

REVIEW.

The Peoples and Politics of the Far East. By HENRY NORMAN. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Mr. NORMAN is equally at home in writing picturesque descriptions of interesting scenes and events and in discussing grave political problems. He spent nearly four years in the Far East as a special correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and other papers, and his articles published at that time (some of which by arrangement with the author appeared in the columns of the *Daily Press*) attracted much attention, both at home and out here, for the vigour of their writing, the conciseness of their information, and the originality and incisiveness with which the views of the writer were expressed. The articles written during his travels in the East form the foundation of the present book, but have been greatly amplified and brought up to date, and some of the more important chapters are entirely new and have been written in view of recent developments. The result is a mass of useful information and most interesting reading. Mr. Norman, however, sometimes uses the language of hyperbole, for which due allowance must be made, as, for instance, in his description of the summer climate of Hongkong, which does not kill people off at anything like the rate he represents, nor is it necessary to go to the Peak for the summer in order to have "a reasonable probability of being alive at the end of it." We will let that pass, however. Like everyone else who visits Hongkong, Mr. Norman was much impressed with the signs of material progress he saw around him. But his observation did not stop there. "In spite of all its commercial progress," he says, "and its vital position in the Empire, Hongkong is in many respects curiously behind the civilization of the times." Things have altered somewhat since Mr. Norman was here, and his remark that "You cannot even get a copy of the Hongkong Ordinances" does not now apply, but as a general observation the quotation must still command assent. The cause of our backwardness is of course to be found in our system of government. The dead weight of officialdom the colony has to carry and the repression of independent opinion keeps it back in everything not directly affecting the making of money. It is well understood that no hindrances are to be placed in the way of trade, but with that proviso fulfilled the object of officialdom is to jog along in a comfortable routine and avoid trouble of all kinds. The community, however, is not quite content to lag behind the civilisation of the time, and Mr. Norman, making due note of its aspirations to be allowed to manage its own local affairs, quotes at length the recent petition to the House of Commons, thereby securing for it a good deal more publicity and durability of record than it was likely to have secured by any other means. Mr. Norman poses, too, in the role of a prophet. After a reference to the Chinese quarter and its insanitary condition, he says:—"I never ceased to prophesy two things about Hongkong, one of which, the epidemic, has come true indeed. The other waits, and as it is rather alarmist it is perhaps better left out of print." We gather, however, from other references, that "the other thing" to which Mr. Norman alludes is the chance that the Chinese may rise some night and murder us all in our beds. We fancy no one will sleep any the less soundly for the suggestion. On the subject of China and Japan, Mr. Norman writes as a friend and admirer of the latter, while for the former, with its official corruption, its conceit, its superstition, and its unreasoning conservatism, he professes the most profound contempt. "Unless the character of the Chinese Government can be vitally changed," he says, "all the guns and ships in the world will not save them," an expression which will be endorsed by all who have studied China and the Chinese. Mr. Norman's conclusions on this branch of his subject may be summed up in the following passage from the last chapter of his book:—

"What is to be the future of China? Here the chief factor of the problem—the character of the Chinese people—is so obscure that nobody who knows China at all will venture on a confident forecast. China will not over-run the world. China will not raise herself to the rank of a compact, homogenous, powerful nation, observant of the laws which govern civilised intercourse. Japan will desire to reorganise China, and will

not be permitted. These things are sure enough. But they bring us no nearer to a conclusion. My own view—which I present with due diffidence—is that the fate of China—I use the name for convenience, although, as I have said before, there is really no such thing as 'China' at all—this country of rag-tag and pig-tail, will be partitioned among other nations. China has hitherto 'salted all the seas that run into her,' and obstruction, 'the only force in China upon which it is safe to rely,' has served her well. But she has never had to face a prospect like that which lies before her to-day. I think she will ultimately go to pieces under the pressure of the conflicting interests that focus upon her. As Wingrove Cooke well said, 'the whole present system of China is a hollow thing, with a hard brittle surface: we try in vain to scratch it; but some day a happy blow will shiver it. It will all go together. A Chinaman has no idea of surrendering a part to save the rest. The only question with him is, how long can it be resisted? how long can it be evaded?'"

The idea of an Anglo-Chinese alliance Mr. Norman utterly scorns, but is impressed with the value to England of Japan's friendship. Of the part England should play in the Far East he has formed a high estimate. The expansion of the Empire he holds to be not only a matter of self-interest but a sacred duty. "When," he says, "a native race comes under British control it receives immediately a birth-gift—Freedom, 'heaven-sent,' red-tape-bound, straight from Downing Street." It has been my fortune to see at close quarters almost all the civilised nations of the world, and most of the great colonies, and the result is that I believe in Englishmen above all other men, and in British rule above all other rule. Therefore the British Empire is to me the most important impersonal consideration on earth, and the transmission to our heirs of the legacy of our fathers the greatest responsibility."

One of the most interesting sections of the book, at all events to residents in Hongkong who are concerned with problems of colonial government, is that relating to "France in the Far East," which comprises four chapters. We grumble about the ineptitude of our own Government, but we have cause to congratulate ourselves that we are free from the jobbery and corruption and petty annoyances of French rule, the main object of which appears to be to keep out foreigners, to maintain an army of functionaries, and to distribute concessions on corrupt principles. The result is that "from 1883, when the history of Tonkin began, down to the latest accessible official statistics, the cost of Tonkin to France has reached the colossal figure of 534,531,470 francs, or £21,381,247, a yearly average of 44,544,264 francs, or £1,781,770. Or, to put the fact in a popular form, the satisfaction of including 'le Tonkin' among the possessions of his country has cost the French taxpayer 122,039 francs—£4,881—a day, Sundays included, for every day that he has had it. It may safely be foretold that when at length he comes to realise this fact he will be surprised, and his surprise will manifest itself in a striking manner." As a Frenchman, M. Leroy-Beaulieu, expresses it, "We are practising a systematic exploitation of the public funds for the profit of a thousand or so persons." As a matter of sober fact, Mr. Norman says in conclusion, "the French colonisation of Tonkin—and Tonkin is only one example of a truth which every other French colony would illustrate to a greater or less degree—has amounted to this: France has taken possession of a country; she has despatched to it an army of soldiers and a second army of functionaries; a handful of dealers has followed to supply these with the necessities and luxuries of life; the dealers have purchased these necessities and luxuries from France (the foreign imports being chiefly for native consumption), as the Customs tariff prevents them from buying cheaper elsewhere; these purchases have practically constituted the trade of France with the colony. *Castra faciunt; coloniam appellant.*" As an instance of official obstruction Mr. Norman refers to the history of the Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin. Having spoken of the value of the concession, of which he entertains a high opinion, he says:—"Now my reason for going thus into the details of a single enterprise is simple. Here is a commercial undertaking of the very best character, the results of which are proved beyond doubt, in the French colony of Tonkin, where are also

the railways I am discussing. Yet from beginning to end the local authorities have done nothing but obstruct the Société in every way. The whole of the capital, with trifling exceptions, has been found by two British subjects in Hong-kong, Messrs. Chater and Mody, to whom and whose money the development of this Tonkin wealth is wholly due. Again and again have they tried to induce French capitalists to take a share of the burden. I believe this is now about to be accomplished, but I am speaking of the past. Moreover, the most childish restrictions have been enforced, of which one may be given as a specimen. No man not a French subject may be employed by the Société in any capacity. That is, if the directors desired to obtain a report upon the value of their property, or upon the best means of developing it, from a distinguished British or American expert, they could not charge his fee to the accounts of the Société, but would have to pay him out of their own pockets as a purely private matter. Such are some of the conditions and history of investment in Tonkin, while the country is starving for want of capital, and 'pirates' hold possession of the greater part of it for want of opportunity to work for wages. I ask, therefore, what are the prospects of these tremendous railway concessions I have enumerated, or what reason is there to think that they are *bona fide* commercial investments? The reply is obvious.

There are many other subjects of interest dealt with in Mr. Norman's book; Siam, for instance, and the relations of France with that country, but for further acquaintance with these we must refer our readers to the book itself, and we can assure them they will find it one of the best they have ever read referring to the Far East. They may find reason to dissent from some of Mr. Norman's conclusions on controversial subjects, but they will never fail to find him interesting.

THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following is the report of the Committee appointed by H.E. the Governor to inquire into the Medical Department and other matters relative thereto:—

We, the undersigned, were appointed by his Excellency the Governor to be members of a Committee of Inquiry into the Medical Department of the colony and other relative matters embodied in a list of subjects which accompanied our letters of appointment.

2.—We have accordingly proceeded on the lines laid down by the Government and have conducted our inquiry with special reference to the subjects upon which we were asked to report. In the course of that inquiry, with a view to making ourselves thoroughly acquainted with the working of the Medical Department generally, we have had occasion to pay a personal visit of inspection to the Government Civil Hospital, and have examined several servants of the Government, to whom we are indebted for much valuable information and many useful suggestions, which we have adopted and embodied in our recommendations.

The following is a list of the officers who have appeared before us in the course of our inquiry:—

The Colonial Surgeon.
The Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital.
The Superintendent of the Gaol.
The Assistant Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital.
The Secretary of the Sanitary Board.
The Health Officer.
The Medical Officer of the Gaol.
The Government Analyst.
Dr. Chung of the Alice Memorial Hospital.
Honourable Dr. Ho Kai, and the Matron of the Government Civil Hospital.

A copy of the evidence given by them forms an appendix to the report which we beg to submit below for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor.

For facility of reference we have drawn up our report in the form of answers to the various questions submitted to us and corresponding numerically thereto.

REPORT.

Question 1.—The present distribution of work and the hours of duty of each member of the medical staff. What re-arrangement of duties if any, is desirable with a view to securing the more efficient working of the Department?

Answer.—We are of opinion—

(a) That the work required of the medical staff—as at present distributed—falls to a certain extent on the Colonial Surgeon, and chiefly on the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, and that the time of those officers is sufficiently occupied, more especially since the additional duty of *daily* inspecting the Tung Wa Hospital has been imposed on them.

(b) That the Medical Officer of the Gaol has not sufficient work, but that the present occupant of the post is not competent to assist at the Government Civil Hospital.

(c) That the duties of the Health Officer of the Port fully occupy the time of one officer.

In view of the above it appears to us that some re-arrangement of duties is desirable with a view to distributing the work more equally among the officers of the Department. At present, chiefly owing to the reason given in (b) above and to the fact that the services of the Health Officer of the Port, owing to his being allowed private practice, are not available for the general work of the Department in time of great pressure or emergency, serious inconvenience is likely to arise should the Colonial Surgeon or the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital or the Assistant Superintendent be incapacitated for duty by sickness. Further, under the existing arrangements, it is difficult to provide for leave due to officers of the medical staff without outside assistance and this, we understand, is not readily available owing to the lapsing pay of the absent officer or officers being insufficient to induce doctors from ships, for instance, to place their services at the disposal of the Government. The result is that when either the Colonial Surgeon, the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, or the Assistant Superintendent takes leave, his share of the work must necessarily fall on the other two officers, the Health Officer of the Port and the Medical Officer of the Gaol for the reasons stated above not being available.

Being satisfied from the evidence before us that the present numerical strength of the medical staff, although not too large, is quite sufficient for the ordinary requirements of the colony, it remains to us to suggest such re-distribution of the duties as may, if not effectually overcome, at least considerably minimise, the disadvantages of the present system of administration in the department. In considering what re-arrangement is necessary for this purpose we have been guided by the following facts which have been brought to our notice:—

(1)—That much of the Colonial Surgeon's time is occupied at present in attending subordinate officers of the Government and Police Officers and their families. Also that he is charged with the duty of inspecting the Tung Wa Hospital. This work we consider should not be ordinarily performed by the Principal Medical Officer of the Government, and we shall accordingly recommend the performance of these duties by a junior officer.

(2)—That the Health Officer, although nominally under the control of the Colonial Surgeon, is not absolutely at his disposal in an emergency, owing to his being allowed private practice.

(3)—That the services of the Medical Officer of the Gaol are not at present availed of when assistance is required in the Government Civil Hospital.

In view of the above facts, we beg to make the following recommendations for the re-constitution of the medical staff and a general re-distribution of the duties pertaining to them.

We consider that the title of Colonial Surgeon is a misnomer and should be abolished, and that in his place a Principal Medical Officer of the Government, whose duties should be both executive and administrative, should be appointed. Such officer should be the recognised head of the medical staff proper, but should, in our opinion, also perform the duties of the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital in so far that he should superintend and be responsible for the satisfactory management of that institution.

The Principal Medical Officer should have under his control and at his disposal the following staff:—

(a)—Two medical officers who should ordinarily perform the duties of assistants at

the Government Civil Hospital. One of these officers to be available for attending the subordinate officers of the Government and the Police.

(b)—Health Officer of the Port. This officer would ordinarily not be available for other duties, but in times of emergency should be at the entire disposal of the Principal Medical Officer and at all time under his orders.

(c)—Medical Officer in charge of the Gaol, whose duties should also include a daily inspection of the Tung Wa Hospital. This officer should likewise be at all times under the orders of the Principal Medical Officer, and liable, when called upon, to assist at the Government Civil Hospital or available for any service at the discretion of the Principal Medical Officer.

Under the above arrangement we consider that many of the disadvantages of the present system would disappear. The Principal Medical Officer would have under his control a sufficient staff for the ordinary requirements of the colony, and in the event of an officer falling sick or taking leave it would be open to him to distribute the duties of such officer amongst the remainder of the staff (taking his own share) without undue strain on any individual officer.

In addition to and independently of the above proposed medical staff proper, we recommend strongly the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the colony *vis-a-vis* the Medical Officer of Health for the Port; but, unlike the latter officer, entirely independent of the control of the Principal Medical Officer. The Health Officer for the Colony should, in our opinion, have no connection whatever with the medical staff proper. His position should be quite distinct. He should be the medical adviser of the Government on all sanitary matters through the Sanitary Board, to which he should be attached (not necessarily as a subordinate officer of the Board) and on which he should occupy a seat. He should, however, in our opinion, be entitled to no vote, his duties on the Board being purely of an advisory nature, and it being obviously undesirable that he should enter into any discussion upon points on which he is called upon to advise.

We are not prepared to lay down definitely the specific duties that should be assigned to the proposed new officer; they must necessarily depend to a great extent on local conditions and circumstances, which are perhaps better known to the Government than to ourselves, but we consider that the duties performed by similar officers in some of our large towns at home should, *mutatis mutandis*, be assigned to the Health Officer for the Colony, and we append for the information of the Government a copy of the duties laid down by the Bradford Corporation for their Medical Officer of Health, and an abstract of those performed by similar officers in the City of London, which it may be found desirable to adapt to local requirements.

With regard to the qualifications requisite for the proposed office, we are strongly of opinion that the selected candidate should possess a public health diploma in addition to his ordinary medical degree. He should, in short, be an expert in all matters affecting the public health.

Question 2.—Whether the existing staff is sufficient to meet the ordinary requirements of the Colony, and what special arrangements, if any, should be made in case of emergency?

Answer.—We have already dealt with the first part of this question and expressed our opinion that under the re-arrangement proposed above the numerical strength of the staff is sufficient for the ordinary requirements of the Colony.

With regard to the latter half of the question, we have also provided above for cases of moderate emergency in recommending that the services of all members of the medical staff proper should be available for other than their ordinary duties, when necessity arises, and that the Principal Medical Officer shall have the power of apportioning and allotting such special duties. In cases of emergency we are unable to recommend any definite course of action, seeing that the proper steps to be taken on such occasions must necessarily depend on the circumstances and conditions and must be decided accordingly. We, however, venture to suggest that in the event of any grave emergency arising liberal inducement be offered to outside medical practitioners (local or otherwise) to place their services at the disposal of the Government, and that such temporary officers should be under the orders of the

Principal Medical Officer in the same way as members of the permanent staff.

Question 3.—Whether it is desirable that any member of the staff should be allowed private practice.

Answer.—We consider that in no case should private practice be allowed to officers of the medical staff of the Government, and have based our proposals for the reorganisation of the staff on the understanding that this privilege, where it now exists, will be withdrawn, and that the services of the whole staff will be entirely at the disposal of the Government.

We, however, make the above recommendation conditionally upon medical officers of the Government being allowed, as hitherto, to be called in by private practitioners for the purpose of holding consultations, to which we see no objection whatever.

In connection with the question of private practice, it has been brought to our notice that ex-patients of the Government Civil Hospital often visit Hongkong from the Coast ports for the purpose of consulting the medical officers at the Hospital, who are well acquainted with their cases, having treated them during their periods of sickness. In such cases we are given to understand that unless these ex-patients re-enter the Hospital, the doctors are not allowed to tender advice or opinions, and it has been suggested that to this extent and strictly within these limits private practice should be allowed and the doctor authorised to see such patients and charge a fee therefor. We are not, however, prepared to endorse this latter suggestion; it appears to us that there is no objection to these ex-patients consulting, if they so desire, the medical officers of the hospital service in these cases, but seeing that the medical service is provided by the Government, and that the doctors are consulted in such cases *qua* officers of the Government Civil Hospital and not *qua* private practitioners, we think that all fees so chargeable should be credited to the Government and not to its individual officers.

Question 4.—To what extent the Chinese community avail themselves of the Civil Hospital, and what steps, if any, can be taken to make it more popular with the Chinese?

Answer.—From the evidence taken on this subject we are of opinion that, having regard to the accommodation provided, the strength of the medical and nursing staff, &c., the advantages of the hospital are fully availed of by the Chinese, and that the number of beds is at times hardly equal to the number of patients applying to be admitted. As regards the out-patients we learn that there are more applicants than, under the existing arrangements, can possibly be attended to, and that they have constantly to be sent away in consequence. It is anticipated that if the re-arrangement of the staff, which we have proposed above, is approved, the work of this branch of the Hospital will be more efficiently performed than at present, and will increase accordingly.

Question 5.—To what extent non-Government Hospitals have been visited and inspected in the past, and what improved arrangements, if any, should be made for the frequent and regular inspection of such institutions in the future.

Answer.—We find that the only non-Government Hospital hitherto regularly inspected is the Tung Wa Hospital. We are of opinion that that institution should in future be visited at least once daily, and have already provided for the performance of this duty by a member of the medical staff. As regards other non-Government Hospitals we consider that power should be taken (by law if necessary) providing for the periodical inspection by an officer of the Government of all hospitals in the Colony, public and private.

Question 6.—Whether the scheme suggested in the enclosed letter from the Acting Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital for the training of nurses locally is practicable, and if so, whether it is desirable in the interests of economy and efficiency?

Answer.—We consider that the scheme referred to is practicable to this extent, viz., that the young women whom it is proposed to train should be trained on the understanding that they can qualify as "nurses" only and can never attain to the rank of "sisters," to whom they will and must always remain subordinate. We are of opinion they cannot be trained locally with a view to ultimately taking the place of the European sisters, and that, even if they could

be, it would be obviously undesirable on the grounds of their nationality and origin to accord them such equality. Subject to the above limitations, we are prepared to recommend the scheme as a tentative measure and on the grounds of economy. We understand that in the future two of the sisters will be away on leave at the same time, and it is anticipated that with the assistance of the young women whom it is proposed to train, the remainder of the nursing staff will be able to carry on the work satisfactorily, and that the necessity of obtaining an extra sister from home, to enable members of the nursing staff to take leave when it falls due, will thus be obviated. We are also prepared to recommend the scheme on independent grounds in the hope that, if it succeeds, the want of an outside nursing staff which would be available for private cases would be gradually supplied. Whether or not the training of these young women will ultimately enable the Government to reduce the staff of European sisters, we are unable at present to say. It is possible, however, that if they prove to be capable nurses, the duties of the sisters may gradually become of a lighter and more supervisory nature, and in that event their number might eventually be reduced to what is necessary for the purpose of supervision, the "nurses" so-called doing much of the work at present performed by the sisters. We are not, however, in a position to forecast events, and we therefore make no recommendation for the reduction of the European nursing staff unless circumstances justify such reduction.

We think that the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital should report upon the success (or otherwise) of the scheme herein referred to after twelve months, and that its continuance should depend upon the nature of that report.

Question 7 (a).—How far the establishment of dispensaries for the sale of European drugs at nominal prices to Chinese is practicable? Whether such establishments could be made self-supporting without sacrificing the object in view, and, if not, what extra cost would be involved thereby? Further, whether such institutions should be placed under Government control, or whether satisfactory arrangements could be made with the Chinese College of Medicine for their efficient working and management?

Answer.—We approve of the above scheme and the object which it has in view, but hesitate to suggest its general adoption, not being in a position to form an accurate estimate of the expenditure that would be involved thereby and of its relative utility. In view, however, of the fact that British Kowloon is without either a qualified private medical practitioner, or a dispensary for the sale of European drugs, we consider it highly desirable that the latter at least should be provided without delay, and beg to recommend accordingly the establishment of a dispensary in that locality with a Chinese practitioner qualified in Western medicine in charge, but under the direct control and supervision of the Government.

We consider that a small charge should be made for drugs supplied to Chinese; this being the practice of the Medical Missions in China; and from the results shown by those societies we have every reason to anticipate that the dispensary would prove a financial success. The necessary checks, in view of the native character, should of course be exercised over the Chinese practitioner in charge, who should in our opinion be secured for a certain amount.

As regards the cost of the proposed dispensary, we understand that a sum of \$1,500 a year would be sufficient to cover the expenditure for rent, drugs, and salary of the officer in charge, the latter to be fixed at \$60 a month without private practice.

In addition to his duties in the dispensary we consider that the Chinese dispenser should be required to make himself acquainted with and give early information of the existence of any epidemic disease, to enquire into the causes of suspicious deaths, for the information of the Registrar-General, and to act as public vaccinator for the district of Kowloon.

If the experiment proves successful in Kowloon, we recommend the general extension of the scheme to the Colony, but would point out that the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals would appear to meet the requirements of the native population in the districts in which they are located.

Question 7 (b).—In the event of a recurrence of the plague, what medical arrangements should be made for the removal of patients from the Colony?

Answer.—We are of opinion that all persons, wishing to do so, should be allowed to leave the Colony, subject to the following arrangements for and conditions of removal:

- (1) Patients to be removed to at least 20 miles (as the crow flies) from the Colony.
- (2) Special junks, fitted up to the satisfaction of the medical authorities, to be chartered at times from certain wharves, provided for the purpose in the Eastern and Western Districts.
- (3) Such junks to proceed to a place more than 20 miles (as the crow flies) from the Colony under escort of at least one European before discharging patients.
- (4) Matched to be secured and assigned, the wharves, for the temporary accommodation of the sick prior to their removal.
- (5) One European police officer and one medical officer, if possible, to be on duty at each of the matched.
- (6) Patients, wishing to be removed from the Colony, to report to the officer on duty at the matched, who should arrange for their temporary accommodation and early removal in the manner prescribed above.

In this connection we would further suggest that dead bodies might also with advantage be removed from the Colony provided that such removal is carried out speedily, and the flesh of distance from the Colony is strictly adhered to.

Having now dealt with all the questions submitted to us for enquiry, we beg leave to add one or two suggestions which have occurred to us in connection with the subject under review.

It has come under our notice in the course of our enquiry that the present observation ward at the Government Civil Hospital is wholly unsuitable for the purpose for which it is intended. Being a wooden structure, it is necessarily very inflammable in the dry season, and further that it has been more than once partially destroyed by fire. We would therefore respectfully submit the great danger to which patients are exposed by being housed in a wooden building, and urge the early erection of a permanent brick or stone structure, for which we are informed plans have already been prepared.

We would further beg to suggest that the Kennedy Town Police Station be permanently reserved as a Hospital for the reception of infectious or contagious diseases, when the Hospital is full or when it is undesirable to remove patients across the water. With these additional suggestions, which we trust will receive the favourable consideration of the Governor, we beg to conclude our report.

THOS. H. KNOTT,
Deputy Inspector General, P.W.D.,
Chairman.

A. F. FRESTON, M.B., B.S.,
Sergeon, Colonist, A.M.S.
A. MCCONNELL,
J. THURBURN,
JAN. CANTINE, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.,
Dipl. Public Health,
R.C.P. London.

Hongkong, April, 1896.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The following supplementary report by the Retrenchment Committee was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday.

With reference to paragraphs 24, 25, and 26 of our report on the expenditure of the Colony, having taken the evidence of Mr. Coates, we have now the honour to submit the following observations respecting the staff of the Public Works Department.

2.—In paragraph 25 of the main report we set out the value of the work done every year since 1882, together with the salaries and other charges. As pointed out by us, the salaries of the indoor staff proper amounted in 1874 to \$19,225, and in 1884 to \$25,422, whilst in the estimates for this year they reached the figure of \$49,682.

3.—A reference to the paragraph above cited will show the very great rise in salaries since 1882. It is, therefore, a matter of regret to

from what it is where the population is only 15,000 or 20,000, I would point to the very material reduction in the consumption of water that has taken place in recent years in cities and towns in England and express a hope that the public generally will before long show that they are not behind the residents in those cities and towns in their endeavours to check unnecessary waste.

The number of meters now in use is 188, and the quantity of filtered and unfiltered water supplied by meter has been 108,834,000 gallons and 71,856,000 gallons respectively.

Applications for the construction of new services and the repair of existing ones have been received in 377 cases.

MAINTENANCE OF SEWERS.

The sewers and storm water drains have as far as practicable been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the past year without any exceptional expenditure.

That complaints have been received of the smell arising from some of the storm water drains I am fully aware, but it must be borne in mind that so long as decomposing matter is discharged into sewers or drains, smells are inevitable and in order to avoid them it is absolutely necessary that not only the public sewers but also each and every house drain must be so arranged as to permit of their contents being discharged before decomposition sets in, and further care should be taken not to store sewage up on private premises till it attains a state of decomposition and becomes so offensive that it can no longer be suffered in close proximity to human habitations, and then discharge it down a drain.

Everybody knows that any fluid that has a strong odour, whether it be cabbage water, otto of roses, or anything else, will carry with it that odour wherever it goes, and if foul smells are not to be emitted from sewer ventilators it is of primary importance that the sewage discharged into the sewers should be fresh.

Difficulty is at present experienced in preventing foul smells arising from the large storm water drains on account of their large capacity and the small flow in them during the dry season, and this has been somewhat aggravated during recent years by the dilatory manner in which the reconstruction of defective and insanitary house drains and their connection with the new sewerage system has been proceeded with. The whole of the house drains should be put in a thoroughly sanitary condition and connected with the new sewers without delay. It must be remembered the new system of sewers has been designed to be practically self-cleansing with the dry weather flow, but so long as these sewers are deprived of half the dry weather flow owing to the house drains being unconnected with them it cannot be a cause of surprise to any thoughtful person that the full advantage of the system should not be gained. And further dilatory procedure in the disconnecting of the house drains from the storm water drains only aggravates the nuisance that has existed for years in connection with these drains by reducing the dry weather flow in them, and the polluting of the sub-soil by sewage escaping from many of them.

It is hardly conceivable after the various reports and discussions that have been recorded that there should exist any such idea that the new system of sewers had diverted the storm water from the old drains, and yet I find it recorded in the mail issue of the *Daily Press*, June 27th, 1894, that at a meeting of the Sanitary Board a member stated that the carrying out of the new system diverted storm waters of the colony from the old fashioned storm water drains by which alone these drains were kept in order. It is interesting to note that in the opinion of this member the flow of storm water is necessary to keep these drains in order. This I have always contended is the case so long as they receive sewage, and their inevitable condition during the dry season of the year when there is practically no storm water must be insanitary. That condition is one of the main reasons why I have always advocated diverting the sewage, but not the storm water, from the old storm water drains.

During the past year various questions relating to the introduction of the separate system and the advisability of having open drains throughout the greater part of the city have been again brought forward, in most cases by anonymous writers.

One member of the Sanitary Board, however, stated that in his opinion no drains should be laid under the floor of any house and if it was

not possible to adopt any other course than to bring it through the house the pipe should be laid above the floor. That gentleman, however, did not explain how the difficulty of many of the cook-house floors being level with or below the remaining portion of the ground floor of the house was to be got over in view of the fact that water will not run up hill.

It would only be a waste of time on my part to deal in detail with the various questions raised evidently by persons with no practical knowledge of the arrangement of Chinese houses, elementary hydraulics, or of what is meant by the separate system as being introduced into the city of Victoria and by persons who have not even taken the trouble to read the various published reports on the sanitation and drainage of Hongkong.

EXTENSION OF TYTAM WATERWORKS.

A contract has been entered into for raising the water level in the Tytam reservoir 10 feet, by which it is hoped that an additional storage capacity of 100,000,000 gallons will be obtained. The work was commenced just before the close of the year, plans being approved by the Public Works Committee 28th November, 1894, and adopted by the Legislative Council 6th December, 1894.

PROPOSED WORKS.

Kowloon Cattle Depot; Married Quarters Central Police Station; Signalling Station Kowloon; Village Water, Drainage and Sewerage works. The above works appear in the estimates for this year, and it is hoped that the first three will be commenced at an early date.

Water and Drainage works are required in many of the villages, which will include the formation of streets, roads, and efficient drainage. Some of the villages have during recent years grown considerably, and contain buildings of a substantial character. Several improvements during the last two years have been effected in the alignment and position of buildings and the time has arrived when it is absolutely necessary that more attention should be paid to the formation and drainage of the streets and to the public water supply in these localities for the protection of the health of the residents.

Approximate plans and estimates have been prepared for the erection of new Government offices, and doubtless considering the much needed provision of improved accommodation the Legislative Council will at an early date be asked to vote the money necessary to meet the expenditure on these buildings.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The following reports were laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday:—
Head-Quarter Office, Hongkong.
19th April, 1895.

Sir.—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I personally made the annual inspection this year of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, in regard to which I have to report as follows:—

Both branches of the Corps are now in a state of efficiency. The turn-out of the men and their drill was most satisfactory. The officers know their drill fairly well and are zealous in the performance of their duties. The guns, small arms and equipment are well kept up, the maxim guns looking particularly serviceable.

With reference to the annual report of the Commandant which, with its enclosures, I forward herewith, I have much pleasure in bringing to your Excellency's notice the increase in the number of members during the year from 95 to 112, and also the increase in the number of efficient by 24, facts which indicate a very satisfactory progress which, I trust, will be continued.

The several changes which I had the honour to recommend last year have been carried out with markedly satisfactory results.

The substitution of coolie draft for ponies has been a complete success.

The appointment of an experienced Quarter-Master Sergeant has added much to the efficiency of the Corps.

The handing over by the Government to the Corps of the complete building in which its headquarters are situated—thus enabling the members to feel that the Corps has a home of its own, with space for all its requirements, social as well as official—has largely tended to place the Corps on that permanent footing which was so much required.

If the funds will admit of it, I quite endorse the Commandant's recommendation for khakee clothing and brown belts and slings to be substituted for the present white drill clothing and buff belts and slings of the Field Battery, but as regards his proposal for extending the drill season over a long period I should advise a longer test of the present system, which was adopted after much consideration as being the best adapted to the peculiar local circumstances, and the elasticity of which—as provided for in existing regulations—seems to have been hardly availed of to the full extent.

The post of Acting Commandant which had been so long and ably held by Colonel Jerrard, to whom to a great extent the success of the Corps is due, has been well filled by Major Pemberton, 1st Rifle Brigade, who has entered with much zeal into the work, in which he has had a large experience as Adjutant of Volunteers in England; and the Corps is to be congratulated upon having the services of such a capable officer.

This my final report on the Hongkong Volunteers would not be complete without bringing specially to your Excellency's notice the very valuable services rendered by my Aide-de-Camp, Captain Murray, in having organized and commanded from its commencement the Maxim Gun Company, which mainly by his untiring exertions, great tact, and popularity has been brought to its present state of efficiency.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's obedient servant,

G. DICKY BARKER, Lieutenant-General.
His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong.
FROM THE ACTING COMMANDANT, HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS, TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL (A.), CHINA.
Head Quarters, Hongkong, China.
16th April, 1895.

Sir.—I have the honour to forward the documents, as per margin, connected with the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1894-95, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding and favour of transmission to his Excellency the Governor.

The appointment of Mr. Watling, so strongly recommended by the late Acting Commandant Lieutenant-Colonel F. B. Jerrard, has proved most satisfactory. The arms, clothing, equipment, and stores are now properly looked after and the books are up to date.

The substitution of coolie for pony draft has proved a great success.

The officers have assisted me greatly by their regular attendance at drills, and by the example they have set, and I feel that the increased efficiency of the Corps is largely due to their efforts.

The non-commissioned officers are nearly all most zealous and have shown a good example to the men by regular attendance at parades, and by the interest they take in their work.

With regard to the men I notice that the increase in the number of efficient over last year is as under:—

Field Battery 17
Maxim Gun Company 7

I venture to recommend that khakee and blue putties be substituted for the summer clothing worn at present by the Field Battery, the Maxim Gun Company retaining their present uniform. Should this proposal meet with approval I would respectfully suggest that brown leather belts be substituted for the pipe clayed buff accoutrements now worn by the Field Battery.

I think that the drill season as at present fixed is not sufficiently elastic. Lieut.-Col. F. Jerrard on handing over to me mentioned that this was also his opinion. It is not easy to obtain good musters at any parades after April 1st. I would ask that sanction may be given for the drill season to commence on October 1st and close on 31st March. I feel certain that this alteration would enable members to attend the requisite number of drills with less inconvenience to themselves and their employers than is the case at present. In England the drill season is during the summer months, and the minimum duration is four months.

Since last inspection the rest of the building used as head-quarters has been handed over, and will be furnished as a recreation room for members of the Corps. I am strongly of opinion that the handing over of the building will eventually prove very beneficial to the Corps generally.

erally—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

ARTHUR R. PEMBERTON,
Acting Commandant.

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS IN 1894.

The following is the calendar of probates and administrations granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong during 1894, exclusive of Chinese estates under \$1,000:—

Name of Testator or Intestate.	Value of Effects.
Philip Albert Myburg	25,350
Yeong Tak Wai	45,000
Charles Theodor Henry Kuhlmann	50,082
Alexandre de Britto	100
William Gilbert	6,700
Zilly Allschuler	300
Sir James Russell, K.C.M.G.	80,900
Charles Cole	1,400
Ellen Brown	3,362
Lo Tat Tong	2,800
Lim Chin Guan	240
Ernst Carl Ludwig Reuter	22,300
Richard Goodridge	1,200
Maximiano Antonio Collaço	600
Edward Moore	200
Kwok Kan alias Fung Lam alias Ki Shan	1,500
Helen Colebrooke Mary Cameron	7,700
Cheng Shing Tin	40,000
William Foulkes	350
Thomas Wiseman	3,525
Robert Crawford McMurdo	35,813
Richard Young	27,900
Tang A-Sam	1,500
Yam Wing alias Yam Nam Shan	8,200
Sham Cheuk Tong	15,300
Framjee Hormusjee Mehta	2,200
Tan King Ho	1,070
Cheung Kai	200,000
Ng Hau Pui	2,000
Cavusjee Dorabjee Gotla	3,500
Chan King Shi	10,000
Chan Yeung alias Chan Hin Sau	18,000
Hector Coll Maclean	18,300
Hugh Mackenzie	160
Maggie Patterson	150
Technamooty	500
Thomas Edmund Davies	1,400
Kwok Ah Kwee alias Kwok Aso alias Kwok Kwai	1,000
John Stewart Lapraik	1,420,728
Kwok King On alias Kwok Tze Chong	1,300
George Duddell	250
Wong U Kwong alias Wong Kai	4,000
Elia Pulqueria Hyndman	1,100
Rita Angelina Gomes e Lourenço	4,180
Samuel John Gower	6,640
Andrey Andreyvitch Belogolov	4,400
John Ashton Papillon	600
Yu Hing	60,734
Donald MacDonald	1,150
Chung Sun Lung	50,000
Emilie Fordyce Dunstan	3,765
Mahomed Razack	1,000
Leung Tat Choi	1,000
Herbert Victor Cox	200
Cosme Memmo Gracias	160
Mahomed Hedjee Madar	100
Manoel Pereira	41,900
Hector McDonald Crowlie	2,000
Tam Kit	40,000
Chun Shee alias Leung Chun Shee	7,000
James Whittall	3,400
Yung Fat	21,500
Pang Tsz	12,000
Shi In Man	30,000
Cheung Sui Shang	119,763
Ip Nam	10,000
Tang Tung Shan	300,750
Harriet May	37,689
Chan Kum	3,400
Yune Kam	5,000
Tevil Silbermann	6,000
Chan Tai	50,000
Wong Sui Ki	1,000
James Jordan	50
Pedro Medina	50
Gerhard M. Krohn	100
Henry Mason	200
Leong Nin	12,000
Peter Ventnor Grant	134,700
Wee Boon Teck	1,200
Fung Tsun	6,000
Kwan Lin Oi alias Kwan Ngan	3,100
Henry Batten	810
Ho Tsun San	45,000
Frank Lapsley	50
F. D. Draper	50
Wong Tsung	4,000
John Macgregor	88,533
Chui Sut Hing	5,000
William Duffus	765
Yune Hee Ming alias Yune Fung	5,000
Wong Ying	4,000
Tang Tung Shang	300,750
George John Vowles	1,627
Lee Yik Chee	11,000
Lee Ah Sun alias Lee U Nam	3,000
Frederick William Speidel	4,679
Robert H. Nisbet	50
Grace Maria Ogle	8,200
Kwan Shing	8,000
Henry Kennett	2,000

THE PO LEUNG KUK.

The following is the return of the number of destitutes that have been dealt with through the Po Leung Kuk between the 1st April and 31st December, 1894:—

Married	13
Adopted	6
Died	3
Sent home—Males	275
Sent home—Females	181
Destitutes still in charge of the Society—Women and Children	31

AN ESCAPED PRISONER'S FATAL LEAP INTO THE SEA.

An exciting scene was witnessed on the Praya Reclamation on Saturday morning. A coolie had been arrested at West Point by Inspector McEuen, one of the Sanitary officials, for throwing blood down a gully trap. The inspector was taking him to the station, when the coolie bolted. He was followed by the inspector and chased along several streets to the Praya Reclamation. When he reached the water's edge he jumped into the sea, and Inspector McEuen jumped in also, and quickly brought the determined runaway to the shore again. But the coolie showed no signs of life, and although efforts were made to resuscitate him he did not recover, and his body was removed to the Police Station. An inquest will be held.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twenty-five members were present on Saturday to compete for the Short Range Cup and Spoons. The weather was good, but with the exception of Corporal Woolridge whose score was an exceptional one, no one seemed able to do much. The Cup was won by Sapper Pritchard, R.E., the first competitor not having entered for it. The Spoons were won by Corporal Woolridge, R.E., Private Grayson, R.B., Sergeant-Major Morris, R.B., Mr. Duncan, and Private Melhuish, R.B. The following were the best scores:—

	500 yds.	600 yds.	H'cap points.	Total.
Corporal Woolridge, R.E.	35	33	—	68
Sapper Pritchard, R.E.	29	32	2	63
Private Grayson, R.B.	27	28	4	59
Sergeant-Major Morris	28	30	—	58
Mr. Duncan	28	26	3	57
Private Melhuish, R.B.	25	28	3	56
Private Godbear, R.B.	25	30	—	55
Captain Palmer	35	16	3	54
Corporal Dowsett, R.B.	24	28	—	52
Sergeant Morris, R.B.	23	25	4	52

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

Under date 26th April the following account has been received from Mr. Henderson at the mines:—

Since my last report, sent up when we were busy making new dams, races, pipe-lines, &c., with a view to supplementing the old supply, and with a better quality of water, for boiler purposes, I have made three new dams of a capacity of about 170,000 gallons in all, to be supplemented by additions of a further 45,000 gallons, —say, a total of 215,000 gallons.

The weather now is exceptionally dry. The water has given out, and we had to shut down just as we were starting to crush our best stone. Samples of this (which you must bear in mind is limited in quantity) Mr. Grant is sending you by this mail. It is labelled by me, so it explains itself.

Owing to the water supply ceasing I am busy with additions and alterations to the battery, and my next intention is to call for tenders for driving and sinking in the Balmoral, Queen, and Grant mines; at present we are working only in the two first named. The Eureka is timbered to the bottom of shaft and ready to sink, but this work being special and new to our class of miners requires my special attention at present. I have my hands full setting the twenty stamps in new and proper order.

The prospects of your mines are still good and improving, which I hope a little later to prove by actual returns. I have not the slightest fear of this, but mines require time; they grow but slowly, especially when the future is kept well in view, and I myself study the future more than the present.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED

The following is the Manager's report for April:—

August Shaft 230 ft. Level.—I am again able to report good progress in extending the No. 2 crosscut, 46' 6" having been driven making its total length 288 feet from the main north crosscut. The ground continues to be most favourable, and water is still issuing from the face. We must now be nearly on the course of Gillies' Reef, unless it has taken a much lower angle than it shows where seen in the Mill Gully and Kladi Tunnels. I need not tell you I am watching this point with much interest.

Intermediate (140ft.) Level.—This is not much change to report at any of the points here. No. 1 winze has continued with the 200-ft. level and men are now at the top. The ore, so far, is poor, but I am looking for an improvement as the slopes extend further south. A drive has been commenced to go out under the new shaft, so as to have something in readiness when we sink it below the 110ft. level.

Upper Stopes.—These are gradually exhausted, as are also the stopes and drives south of the August shaft. We have got into old workings everywhere at these latter points, and as the ore is very poor and much timber and supervision is required, I have discontinued work there as being unprofitable. The new shaft is being raised, and will be completed in about a fortnight, when we shall commence sinking it below the 100ft. level, so as to facilitate the haulage. As already advised, I intend putting one of the Sinyum engines on the shaft.

Gillies' Reef Mill Gully Tunnel.—Owing to our having encountered hard ground in the north drive we have not made much progress I had hoped for, and consequently have not yet connected with the deep workings at Kladi. We shall soon do so, however, as this is now only about 20ft. to go.

Kladi Tunnel.—This point has received the usual attention and again fair progress has been made. The quality of the ore mined shows a marked improvement compared with what was won during the month of March. We seem to have reached the south end of the "chute" of payable ore, however, and as the greater part of the ore above our deepest level has been worked out, we shall soon have to go deeper. But as this will require an engine and pump, I am waiting to see the result of the crosscut at the 200ft. level at August shaft. I may remark that I can see this "chute" of ore for a length of over 100 feet.

North Kladi Tunnel.—Driving here was resumed in the early part of the month, further test the ground to the north of our old workings, but after driving 55' 6" and meeting with anything encouraging we decided to cease work and further prove it by sinking the Mill Gully tunnel.

Total drive for the month, 504' 6".
The quantity of ore mined is 700 tons, made up as follows:—

Upper Stopes	123 tons
August Shaft	312 tons
South of Shaft	60 tons
Kladi Tunnel	171 tons

Milling.—This was carried on during 23 days, crushing 1,110 tons yielding 517 ozs. of gold, viz., 707 tons from the mine for 277 ozs. and 403 tons headings for 42 ozs.

Cyanide Works.—These are now in a forward state and should be quite completed and operations commenced by the 18th proximo. You will be pleased to learn that all pumps, lights, &c., in connection with this work will be run by water power, and that a cheap and efficient means has been adopted for getting rid of all spent tailings.

General.—All work coming under this head has received the usual attention, and large gangs of men have been employed in road making in the jungle for supplies of firewood and mining timbers.

Labour.—This has not been very plentiful, thus necessitating my again sending into Selangor for coolies for surface work. The new road for Kuala Kubu to this place should be completed by the end of the year, however, when I hope this difficulty will be got over to a very great extent, if not quite.

Health.—This continues fairly good.

MESSRS. J. LLEWELLYN & CO., LIMITED.

The sixth annual general meeting of this Company was held at Shanghai on the 20th inst. Mr. Alex. McLeod presided.

The Chairman said—The report and accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1894, have been in your hands now for some little time and I presume you will permit us to dispense with the formality of reading them. The Directors regret that they are not able to place before you a more satisfactory statement of accounts than they now do, but that has been impossible because during the past year we have had a great many unusual difficulties to contend with. You will all remember that in 1893 we sent home for a General Manager to succeed Mr. Watkins, who was then leaving. I have no hesitation in saying that a great deal of trouble was taken to select a gentleman fitted in every way for the post, and we were confident we had found one, but after the experience of the first year of his general management, we came reluctantly to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary to dispense with his services. I do not wish in any shape or form to disparage Mr. Sinclair as a chemist, but I say that as a business manager he proved an utter failure; and although the Company had gone to the expense of sending home for him, and according to his agreement would have to give him three months' salary as compensation for terminating that agreement, we had absolutely no other option but to pay him his three months' salary and let him go. I feel sure I am but expressing the feelings of all the shareholders in saying we are sorry that we did not appoint Mr. Allan, the present Manager, to succeed Mr. Watkins. On the retirement of Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Allan was offered the post and accepted it, and though he has held it only for six months, I am happy to say there is a considerable improvement in the way the business has been conducted, and I believe I may say we are on the road to better things. We have had to contend also with a very great interruption of our trade caused by the war between China and Japan, but now that this is at an end we have every reason to expect that our business with the outports and the North will improve. Although the accounts are by no means satisfactory they show a considerable improvement on last year, for whereas last year we were compelled to write off \$17,000 as a loss on the year, we have this year made a small profit, after paying off all expenses connected with the Company, and although it is only a small amount it shows, as I have said, that we are on the road to improvement, and with the careful manner in which the business of the Company is being conducted, we have every reason to hope that next year we will be able to present you with better accounts than the present statement. Of course you will understand that it is quite impossible to recommend the payment of a dividend; but in the near future we hope to reduce the debit balance and before very long, if things continue as they are going on, to be in a position to pay a dividend. I have nothing more to say, but before asking you to pass the report and accounts, I shall be happy to answer any questions that you may wish to put.

There being no questions,

The Chairman moved that the report and accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1894, as printed and presented, be approved and passed,

Mr. F. W. Such seconded and the resolution was carried.

Mr. H. J. Limby proposed, Mr. Drummond Hay seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, that the appointment of Dr. Macleod, as a director of the Company, be hereby confirmed.

Mr. Limby moved that Mr. F. W. Such be re-elected a director of the Company for the current year.

Mr. Allan seconded and the motion was carried *nem con*.

On the motion of Dr. Macleod, seconded by Mr. Such, Mr. Drummond Hay was re-appointed auditor.—N. C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE TAIPIINGSHAN RESUMPTION QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I wish to make a few remarks with reference to the Taipingshan Resumption question, which came before the Legislative Council on Thursday last and to the leader thereon in your issue of Saturday.

You state the loss to the colony will be half a million dollars. This I consider is too high a figure, though I agree with you that a Commission should be appointed to consider so important a question and reduce the loss as much as possible. The total expenditure for the resumption by the present vote of \$20,000 is brought up to \$82,000 and we have the assurance of the Colonial Secretary that this will cover everything, though the important item of interest on the \$820,000, as also the loss of Crown rent and rates, cannot be included in that figure. You state the number of houses resumed to be 417, which you average at \$750 per house, equal to \$312,750, less the few houses which you say Mr. Cooper would allow to remain. These are good houses and 28 in number, which should be deducted from the 417, thus leaving 389 houses to be destroyed. Now the sum at which you average these houses, i.e., \$750, is far too high. A great number are small old houses and cannot represent a loss of anything like that figure. I should say that certainly not more than \$50 per house should be taken, less the value of the old materials, which I put at \$150 per house, thus showing a loss of \$350 per house, or equal to 136,100.

The price paid by the Government for the land resumed, exclusive of the buildings, works out at \$2½ per square foot, and seeing that the area to be sold should be more advantageously laid out, giving a good street frontage to every house instead of the numbers which were formerly in narrow lanes, the value of the land per foot should certainly be enhanced, though the area to be resold is reduced to 138,000 square feet, and if this land is put up in suitable lots should realize an average of \$2½ per square foot, or equal to \$345,000, from which must be deducted \$83,000, the cost stated for making the new streets, &c., thus leaving \$387,000 as the net sum for the 138,000 square feet to be resold.

We have therefore as follows:—

138,000 sq. ft. at \$2½	\$470,000
I. L. 592 and 593 with 28 houses thereon, price awarded by arbitrators...	79,000
Value of old material in 289 houses destroyed at \$105 each	59,000
Total	\$608,000
Cost of resumption	\$820,000
Cost of forming new streets, &c.	83,000
Total	\$963,000

or a loss of \$295,000.

Both the 70,000 square feet taken for streets and the \$83,000 for forming them I consider excessive and believe they could well be reduced.

There is another most important point without which it is impossible to see really how the colony stands as regards this resumption, viz., the Crown rent. The whole of the property resumed was rented at almost nominal Crown rents, and though I am against anything like excessive Crown rent yet it is certain that the colony will receive considerably more rental from the land when resold, and the difference between the old and new rental should be capitalized and put to the credit of the resumption. When this is done, instead of showing a loss of half a million dollars, I believe it will be found that it will have cost the colony very little, provided it is properly and quickly carried out.

Several months have already elapsed since the arbitration was closed, and the loss by interest, Crown rent, and rates must amount to something like \$10,000 per month, which will soon run into a very large figure.—Yours truly,

R. K. LEIGH, M.I.C.E.

Hongkong, 27th May 1895.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY RIGHTS IN THE INTERIOR OF CHINA.

THE CONVENTION BERTHEMY.

The *China Gazette* publishes the correspondence between the French Government and the Tsungli Yamen, re the "Convention Berthemy," regulating the acquisition of land and houses by Roman Catholic missions (and equally so, of course, by all others whose governments have the most favoured nations clause) in the interior of China, which has been lately ratified and put into force after lying for thirty years pigeon-holed in Peking:—

Letter from the Tsungli Yamen to M. Berthemy, Minister of France.

CONVENTION BERTHEMY.

The 25th day of the 1st moon of the 4th year, Tungchi, February 20th, 1865.

We have the honour of making known to you the following decision (made) with regard to the collective property of the Catholic missions. In future if French missionaries buy ground or houses in the interior of the country, the vendor (name) must specify in the title-deed that his estate has been sold to form part of the collective property of the Catholic mission in the locality. It will not be necessary to insert the names of the missionaries or Christians.

(Letter annexed to the Convention Berthemy, 1865.) Copy of the letter addressed by Tsungli Yamen to the Governor of the Kiangsu, Li.

To His Excellency Chao-Tsinan (surname of Li Hung-chang.)

Distant with much regret from your flowery dwelling, our modest thoughts turn unceasingly towards you, with firm hope, and standing on tip-toe to seek your presence, our sentiments augment as time increases. We like to think that at the present moment happiness, ever increasing, accompanies your footsteps, as the joy attached to your honourable person offers an image of peace. We turn towards the contemplation of your brilliant deportment, and our expressions are on every point in keeping with our sincere sentiments. With regard to actual information concerning the question of France buying ground for the raising of religious edifices, our Yamen has decided, after discussing the matter, that henceforth French missionaries penetrating into the interior and buying ground or houses must take care that the contract contains the following stipulation—(..... name and surname of the vendor) is selling the estate in question to become the collective property of the Catholic mission in the place. It will not be necessary to enumerate the names of the missionaries or of the Christians.

This is the subject of the present letter that we address to you and beg that you should notify to your subordinates that they conform to the above regulations.

In acting thus the religious establishments will remain the collective property of the Christians which will in no way cause detriment to China.

We take occasion of this opportunity to present you our best wishes.

Letter from M. Gerard, Minister of the French Republic in China, to His Highness the Prince Ching and to their Excellencies the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen.

Your Highness,

Your Excellencies,

In your reply of the 16th of this month to my letter of July 16th, concerning the affair of Lo-Icho hien, your Highness and your Excellencies make a citation from an official letter, dated from Moukden in the 8th year of the reign of Tungchi (1869), and containing besides the substance of the Berthemy Convention with regard to missionaries buying ground or houses, this passage:

"The vendor must firstly take advice of the local authorities and demand their authorization; they will decide whether it be expedient or not to agree to this."

I take this opportunity to remind your Highness and Excellencies in a general way without referring to any particular affair of the terms of the Convention agreed to the 20th February, 1865, between the Tsungli Yamen and M. Berthemy, Minister of France, and destined to define clearly the conditions under which the

Catholic Mission may buy ground and houses in the interior of the country.

"We have the honour of making known to you that the undermentioned has been decided with regard to the collective property of the Catholic missions. For the future if French missionaries wish to buy land or houses in the interior of the country, the vendor (his name) must specify in the contract that his estate has been sold to form part of the collective property of the Catholic mission in the locality; it will not be necessary to inscribe the names of the missionaries or Christians."

This Convention is integrally reproduced in the letter which the Tsungli Yamen wrote about the same date to the Governor of Kiang-su and which His Highness the Prince Kung communicated to M. Berthemy. The letter likewise ends with these same words:—"In treating this affair as we have done, the churches will remain the property of the Catholic community, which will in no way bring prejudice to the interests of China." Nothing can be clearer than this arrangement, which mentions no obligation whatever of the vendor being first obliged to obtain the authorization of the local authorities. Certain doubts, however, had arisen with regard to this point, and one of my predecessors, M. Bourée, wrote to the Tsungli Yamen for information on the 30th of January, 1882. They replied the 5th of February. Herewith enclose a copy of letter.

Enclosure.

"We had the honour of receiving on the 30th of last month (11 of the 12 moon) a letter from Your Excellency relative to the buying of land in the interior by missionaries (here follows a summary of the letter). This Convention (the Convention Berthemy) has been drawn up; it is conformable with the Treaty, and its special end is to surround the acquisitions made by religious missions with sufficient guarantees.

"Your Excellency in the letter demands that the transaction be simply carried out according to the terms of the Convention and all unnecessary regulations suppressed.

"The Convention here referred to is thus worded: 'The name of the vendor must appear in the title-deed, which latter must also contain the assertion that the purchase has been made in order to become the collective property of the religious missions. It will be useless that the contract contain the name of the missionaries or of the Christians, etc.' Now if the vendor does not present the contract to the local authorities for examination, how will the latter be enabled to testify that the document contains the name of the vendor and is drawn up clearly to prove the acquisition is made to form part of the collective property of the mission? It is only by examining the deed that the local authorities can make sure that the articles of the Convention have been adhered to, and ascertain if it be necessary to register the deed so drawn up. In this way no fraud can be committed and it at the same time prevents any return upon the transaction.

"The fulfilment of these formalities doubtless offers the greatest advantages to religious missions.

"As a rule any agreement between Chinese with regard to the buying of land or houses is drawn up in the form of a contract, which is presented to the authorities to be registered. If the parties omit this formality the contract is null and void, and in the case of a lawsuit would of course be of no value as a testimony. Transactions of this kind require the payment of a duty and it is only after the contract has been examined that the document may be registered. The presentation of a document to the sub-prefecture, its examination, and the payment of dues for the appending of required seals must evidently take place after the property has been transferred to its new owner, and not before its sale.

"The local authorities must not only act conformably to the Convention, but also according to the stipulations of the treaties. Moreover, when a religious mission buys land or houses, the aforesaid authorities must examine if the acquisition has been made in accordance to established rules, and if these have been adhered to they must in turn fulfil what has been prescribed by these regulations.

"Your Excellency well knows that the Convention in question here offers great advantages.

"Presenting the contract to the authorities for registration is a formality quite conformable with the spirit of the Convention, and there is no exceptional regulation in demanding it. We hope that your Excellency will take due consideration of the matter."

It results from this reply that if the Tsungli Yamen consider it necessary that the contract be presented to the local authorities for registration with payment of dues, this formality must take place according to the letter after the transaction has been concluded and not previous to it.

I have no objection to raise against this act of registration, which is in accordance with the Chinese law and not contrary to the stipulations of the treaties. But it is a well understood fact that the formality of presenting the document for registration must follow and not precede the transaction. It is also to be understood that this proceeding in no way comprises a previous authorization from the local authorities. The Emperor's wishes will thus be accomplished, as he has desired to ensure to the missions the free use of their rights of buying property in the interior of the Empire.

This being an understood thing I beg your Highness and your Excellencies in order to avoid disagreeable misunderstandings to notify the Convention Berthemy to the Marshals, Viceroys, and Governors and give them the necessary instruction so that the formality for presenting documents for registration may be fulfilled, as indicated, after the conclusion of the bargain and without the vendors being obliged to ask for any previous authorization; which is quite contrary to the Chinese law as it is to the treaties and conventions.

If your Highness and your Excellencies thus understand your duties, as I have no doubt you do, I am quite ready on my part to direct the Apostolic Vicars and chiefs of the missions to comply, as they already do, to the formality of presenting the contract for acquiring land or houses to form part of the collective property belonging to their communities, to the local authorities for registration, without the vendor, however, being obliged to obtain any previous authorization.

This is of the greatest importance and destined to avoid many difficulties in the future. It is, moreover, necessary that these instructions receive adequate publicity and that no authority in the country ignore the conditions under which the treaties have insured to the missions the right of acquiring property.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) A. GERARD.

*Letter from the Tsungli Yamen,
(Prince Kung, Prince Ching, Fou, King,
Souen, Siu, Leao, Chang, and Wang.)
To His Excellency M. A. Gerard,
Minister to the French Republic in China.
The 17th day of the 10th moon of the 20th year
Kwang Hsu (14th November, 1894)*

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION.

The 29th of the 9th moon of the 20th year Kwang-su (27th October, 1894) we received a letter from you in which you state that you had written us official letters several times during the months of July, August, and September of this year, with regard to the Convention concluded in February, 1865, between the Minister of France M. Berthemy and our Yamen, respecting the acquiring of property by the religious missions, in which you notified to us that it was owing to certain passages contrary to the original Conventions, having been introduced after its conclusion, that the local authorities (agreed) that vendors should make a previous declaration and obtain their authorization for the selling of their property. You also begged that our Yamen should send copies of the original text of the so-called Berthemy Convention free from any passage introduced in the provinces, so as to conform to previous treaties.

Our Yamen, since the 23rd of the 9th moon of this year (21st October) has sent circulars to all the provinces to make known that with regard to the religious missions buying property it is necessary to conform to the Convention concluded in 1865 between our Yamen and M. Berthemy, Minister of your honourable country.

We hereby officially inform your Excellency of what has been done.

*Letter from M. A. Gerard, Minister of the
French Republic in China, to their Highnesses
the Princes Kung, Ching, and to Their Excel-
lencies the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen.*

Peking, 19th November, 1894.

Your Highnesses and your Excellencies.

I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th of this month, in reply to my official document of October 27th.

By sending the authorities the rectified text of the Convention Berthemy into the provinces your Highnesses and your Excellencies have given proof of respect for their legal engagements, and also of the desire they have to give the religious missions every guarantee with regard to acquiring property according to the Treaty of June 27th, 1858, confirmed by the Convention of the 20th February, 1865.

The natural result, moreover, of this correspondence is not only to state that the text of Convention Berthemy is the only legal document giving the missions the right of acquiring property, but also that the same document has no additional passage introduced by which vendors would find themselves obliged to give previous notice to the local authorities and obtain authorization to sell their property.

Your Yamen will doubtless have insisted particularly on this latter point in the circular, as being of essential importance, and in order to avoid any further misunderstanding, I shall take care that the text of the Convention Berthemy with these instructions be again communicated to all the Consuls of the Republic in China and to the religious missions as the document on which their legal rights are founded.

Will your Highnesses and your Excellencies give me the assurance that the above entirely agrees with the spirit and letter of the document communicated by your Yamen to the Taotais, Marshals, Viceroys, and Governor of the Empire.—I am, etc.,

A. GERARD.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION.

*(From the Tsungli Yamen to M. Gerard, dated
28th November, 1894.)*

The 22nd day of the 10th moon of the 20th year Kwang-su (November 19th, 1894) we received a letter from your Excellency in which you state that you had received our official reply with regard to the question of religious missions buying property, which contained likewise the statement that our Yamen had sent circulars into all the provinces with the text of the Convention concluded in 1863 with his Excellency M. Berthemy, that whenever the religious missions would desire to buy property the above mentioned Convention may be exactly carried out. You, moreover, added that the additional clause concerning the previous notice given to the local authorities and the demand of authorization being completely suppressed, you supposed that our Yamen in writing to the provinces had certainly given particular instructions on this point.

Our Yamen states that circulars containing the necessary instructions relative to this affair were sent to all the provinces on the 23rd of the 9th moon of this year (21st October, 1894), so that the Convention concluded in 1865 with M. Berthemy, Minister of your honourable country, may be fully carried out. We have also officially replied to your Excellency as is recorded in our archives. As our Yamen has clearly expressed the original regulations, it is not necessary to consider stipulations not contained in the aforesaid treaty.

*Letter from M. A. Gerard, Minister of the
French Republic in China, to Their Highnesses
the Princes Kung, Ching, and Their Excellencies
the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen.*

Peking, December 3rd, 1894.

Your Highnesses and your Excellencies.

The official reply of your Highnesses and your

Excellencies proves that there is a perfect understanding between the French Legation and your Yamen upon the exact and faithful application of the Convention Berthemy, as it was concluded on February 20th, 1865. The right of acquiring property, ground, or houses in the interior of China is thus assured to the Catholic missions, and the restrictions which have so far altered or limited the free exercise of the treaty are completely dispelled.

I congratulate myself upon this happy result and the good effect it will have upon the intercourse between the missions and the provincial authorities of the Empire.

Your Yamen having despatched circular instructions to all the provinces, I have likewise sent the necessary instructions to the Consuls of

the Republic and chiefs of the missions, enclosing the text of the Convention Berthemy in both languages, French and Chinese, as also a copy of the correspondence which has passed with regard to this subject between the Legation and your Yamen.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) A. GERARD.

A CHINESE IMPERIAL PROCLAMATION.

Advices from Tientsin announce that an Imperial autograph proclamation has been issued which states that the Treaty has been amply dissonsed. The Emperor has been urged not to surrender territory or pay an indemnity; but rather continue the war, rallying the people to the succour of the State. Such advice comes from faithful servants, but how deeply the Emperor pondered over the settlement no tongue could tell. Since the outbreak of the war everything has been done to enlist troops and furnish them with supplies, but the leadership failed. Nothing but rabble were recruited and there was no victory on sea or land. Both within and beyond the Great Wall the state of affairs was terrible. The enemy pressed on to the Liaotung peninsula and towards Moukden, threatening the metropolitan province itself. The crisis was one demanding decision. For twenty years had the privileges attaching to the sacred Majesty of the Emperor been exercised, and how was it that alarms had been allowed to disturb the country? Heaven had not withheld an augury, for the sea had overflowed the coast and submerged the soldiers' camps. Tormented by the alternative between defence and offence the Emperor had passed the night in trembling and the day labouring with grief. After weighing all the facts most carefully he had determined on his course. Memorialists to the Throne had overlooked many vital points. The officials and people of the Empire must take into account and make allowance for the difficulty in which the Emperor was placed. The Treaty had now been ratified and the reasons for the settlement must be promulgated throughout the Empire. The Emperor would pray that his subjects might be moved to eradicate abuses in the country. The training of an army and the organisation of the revenues of the Empire were urgent questions which must be thoroughly investigated. No laxity would be permitted or tolerated on any pretence. Truth must henceforth prevail and his Majesty looked forward to a regenerated State trusting implicitly in the officials of the capital and provinces.—N. C. Daily News.

THE INDEMNITY LOAN.

The Tientsin correspondent of the N. C. Daily News writes:—A Committee of eight, including the two Princes, Kung and Ching, the Governor of the city and his Lieutenant, Chang-lin, with the Imperial Tutor Weng Tung-ho and the three Tsungli Yamen Ministers, Sung, Hsü, and Chang Zinhwan, has been appointed to arrange about the loan of Tls. 200,000,000 with which to pay Japan. We may have been misinformed, but we think we are right in stating that two of the three Powers have demanded to have the negotiating of the loan equally between them. The rate of interest is said to be 6 per cent., doubtless on a gold basis. This Committee met at the Tsungli Yamen yesterday, the 15th May, to consult what is to be done. It is anticipated by some that she will acquiesce in the arrangement proposed by the allies. China's weakness and corruption have made such a ruthless exposure that nothing apparently seems left for her to do but accept the inevitable; she has lost all courage. There is a strong and knowing hand now guiding one of the European Chancellories and already that hand is beginning to be felt.

HONGKONG.

A general holiday was proclaimed on the Queen's Birthday, but owing to a heavy down-pour of rain the residents had to celebrate the event indoors, and the grand review of troops had to be abandoned. A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Wednesday, and the Legislative Council met on Thursday, when several bills were read for the first time. Judgment in

the Manuk v. W. Shewan case was given on Saturday.

There were 1813 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 134 were Europeans.

The special plague by-laws dated the 10th and 31st May, 1894, are revoked by proclamation of the Governor in Council published in the Gazette.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai has been appointed a member of the Governing Body of Queen's College during the absence of the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes.

The statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Plague Recognition Fund have been made up and audited. The receipts were as follows:—Subscriptions by Europeans, Americans, Parsees, and Indians, \$7,578.45; subscriptions by Chinese community, \$145; proceeds of concerts in Canton and Hongkong per Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., \$224.99; proceeds of concerts in Hongkong per Mr. Blayney, \$97.83; interest, \$6.82; total, \$8,053.09. The disbursements to the 18th May amounted to \$6,536.13, and the amount at credit in the Chartered Bank to \$1,516.90.

Early on the 21st inst. Chinamen entered a mat shed at British Kowloon with the intention of robbing it. Their entry was stubbornly resisted by the tenant and his wife, who were, however, quickly overpowered by the cowardly action of the thieves. One of the latter picked up a chopper, and dealt the man a terrific blow on the head, while the woman was knocked to the ground and brutally assaulted. The rascals then plundered the place, and took away about \$30 worth of goods. Acting-Inspector Mitchell conducted the enquiry into the affair, and a part of the stolen property was found in a nullah close by. Two men have been arrested. The injured man lies in the hospital in a critical condition.

The girl Rebecca Joseph, who was ordered by the Acting Chief Justice to be handed over to her mother, did not leave the Italian convent without displaying considerable displeasure at the Judge's decision. After the completion of the case she returned to the convent, but on the following day she was brought down to the Court by a constable, and afterwards handed over, by order, to the Superintendent of the Gaol, who detained her until Thursday afternoon, when Mr. Howell, the head bailiff, took her under his care and conveyed her on board the *Arratoon Apcar*. He remained with her until the boat started for Calcutta, when she was left in charge of her friends. The girl was very reluctant indeed to leave the convent.

Holiday making in Hongkong is necessarily confined within rather narrow limits. It must therefore, have been very galling on Thursday afternoon to those people who had set their minds upon witnessing the grand review of the Garrison and Volunteers at the Happy Valley in honour of the Queen's Birthday, to see the pitiless rain falling, and thus dashing to the ground all hopes of the ceremony being performed. Thousands of people must have been disappointed at being robbed of a pleasing afternoon's holiday at the Happy Valley, and we suppose the only man who welcomed the rain was the Director of Public Works—not, of course, because he is disloyal, but because the gradual filling of the reservoirs relieves him of considerable anxiety. Major-General Black gave an order abandoning the review at 2 o'clock.

Private telegrams have been received stating that Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, now absent on leave, has been made a C.M.G. Few men have ever earned the honour better than Mr. May, whose self-denying services during the plague were beyond all praise. It was generally supposed that Mr. J. J. Francis, the Chairman of the Permanent Committee, to whom the colony owes a large debt of gratitude, would also have been honoured by having a decoration conferred upon him. Perhaps he may have been, although no news has yet been received of it, for it sometimes takes the Press agencies a long time to go through the birthday list of honours and find out who is who. Or perhaps he may be left out in the cold for having gone "agin the Government." Where party Government prevails that would naturally be so, but in Crown Colonies party considerations are not supposed to carry weight.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steam-boat Co., Limited (for special services rendered).....	\$100
Ng Ho Shi	25
Chen Quan Ee	25
Captain Chas. V. Lloyd	10
Captain W. E. Clarke	5
Captain S. W. Goggin.....	5
R. L. B.....	5
F. D. Goddard	5

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Skertchley delivered his farewell address at the Odd Volumes Society's rooms. Mr. Skertchley is leaving the colony to take up an important position under the Queensland Government, and he took the opportunity of giving a retrospect of the Society's work. The address was a very humorous one, and dealt exhaustively with the doings of the Society, which had no other end in view than the intellectual and social benefit of its members. He had never since boyhood lived so long in one place as in Hongkong, and in five years he had come to like it better than any spot upon which his life had been passed. His Excellency the Governor, who presided, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Skertchley for his interesting, instructive, and facetious address, and said that the members must all have a feeling of regret that Mr. Skertchley was leaving them, and a feeling of pleasure that his high attainments had been so well appreciated and recognised by the English Government. Mr. Skertchley would have a much larger scope for his abilities in Queensland than he had had in this colony, and every one wished him success. Dr. Cantlie seconded the resolution, which was supported by Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, and carried unanimously. It was also resolved to elect Mr. Skertchley an honorary member of the Society.

A curious scene was witnessed at the entrance of the Theatre Royal on Monday night. Miss Grace Hawthorne's benefit was announced, for which the patronage of H.E. the Governor, H. S. Major-General Black, and Commodore Boyes had been promised. Sir William Robinson and General Black on arriving found the doors closed and in company with a large crowd wondered what had happened. Commodore Boyes was unable to attend and so missed the fun, but was represented by his Secretary, Mr. Waymouth. After some delay the doors were opened, but there were no ticket collectors in attendance. Miss Hawthorne appeared on the stage and explained that some of the members of the company having had a difference with "their former manager," Mr. Saville Smith, had refused to act and left the theatre, but the remaining members, she said, were willing to do their best if the audience wished the performance to go on, or, if it was so desired, would postpone it until another evening. The answer was "to-night" and the performance proceeded. The piece was "Theodora" and the diminished company gave a very good representation of it. Miss Hawthorne, in the title role, played with much power, while Mr. Montgomery, who doubled the parts of *The Emperor* and *Andreas*, gave an excellent account of each. Mr. Armadale took the part of *Marcellus*, and in one of the scenes that of *The Emperor*. There was an unusually large audience, who seemed well satisfied with the performance. The tickets were collected during the intervals and a notice was posted at the door requesting gentlemen who had forgotten to pay to do so before leaving.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Shanghai mandarins, we learn from the N. C. Daily News, have received telegraphic despatches from Peking and Tientsin stating that the Emperor has ordered the troops in Manchuria and Shanhaikwan to remain where they are for the present, it being inadvisable to recall them while the present crisis exists. Further, that the report of a rebellion amongst the troops at Shanhaikwan was caused by a fight which occurred between a Chinese and a Manchu regiment, but which was quickly put a stop to by the Chinese and Manchu Generals in command of the respective troops.

Nine German non-commissioned officers left Shanghai for Nanking the week before last, the *Mercury* states, and seven more are to leave in a short time for the same place. These are the first of a large number engaged in Germany to instruct the new Chinese army, and it is intended to form an instruction camp some distance outside of Nanking, where the troops to be raised will be drilled.

A Frenchman named Paternelle, residing at Soctrang, Cochinchina, was attacked in his house by a band of robbers on the night of the 10th inst. He held an official appointment and was also the proprietor of a rice farm, on which he was residing at the time. It was supposed he had in his house money realised by the sale of his crop. The robbers took all there was and inflicted some injuries on M. Paternelle, but these fortunately proved not to be serious. The men were afterwards arrested and the stolen money recovered.

As the *Naniwa* was leaving Nagasaki on the 21st inst. she unfortunately collided with the "Shell" liner *Turbo*, while the latter vessel was laying at anchor off the Oil Tanks. The *Naniwa* struck her a glancing blow on the upper part of the stem, bending it, breaking and buckling two plates, besides doing considerable small damage. We (*Nagasaki Express*) have been unable to ascertain the extent of her own damages, but she appears to be injured somewhat about the bridge. She returned to port, probably to have the necessary repairs effected.

A pseudo doctor who has been living on his wits has been run to earth at Saigon. He gave the name of Jourdin and represented himself as a doctor in the Chilean navy. He said he arrived in Japan by the Chilean man-of-war *Esmeralda*, which was purchased by the Japanese Government, and that he was on his way to France. He had very little luggage with him, but it included a large number of decorations and some surgical instruments, which, when he tried to pawn them, he was recommended to take to a butcher. He had been in Saigon some little time and was finally arrested on a charge of being an impostor and swindler, on which he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. This is possibly the same man that imposed on the Tientsin community a few months ago.

According to a Peking telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* the Emperor has given his approbation to the recommendation of the acting Viceroy of Chihli, Wang Wen-shao, for the summary decapitation, whenever caught, of all the officers who had charge of the torpedo boats of the Peiyang fleet at Weihaiwei and who managed to escape from that port on pretence of attacking the Japanese fleet outside, but took to flight immediately upon getting beyond the forts and harbour, with the result that the whole twelve boats were captured or sunk by the Japanese, or destroyed and abandoned by the officers and crews during the flight. The commodore of this torpedo boat squadron, Tsai Ting-kan, also known as Tsoy Chan, is specially included in this sentence. He is now a prisoner of war in Japan.

As a forcible argument for the immediate construction of railways from Canton to Peking, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the Chinese mandarins should note the journey overland of a quantity of fire-arms and ammunition from Canton which recently arrived at Tientsin en route for the Peking Field Force. This was a cargo of 3,000 stand of Manlicher magazine rifles with their accoutrements and the regulation 200 cartridge for each rifle. They were transported by boat from Canton on the 8th of December, 1894, to the Yuling Pass, whence began the land journey on coolies' shoulders as far as Huk'ow, province of Kiangsi. From this point the journey by boat was recommenced via Poyang Lake, the Yangtze and the Huai rivers up to Tsingkiangpu. Then came another land journey, the cargo being packed this time in carts drawn by four horses or mules, as far as Tientsin, where they arrived "in good condition" on the 2nd inst. Nearly five full months were occupied with this journey, whereas had railways existed it could have been accomplished within ten days. Owing to the important nature of the cargo and the prepared relays of men, boats, and animals for it, this progress from south to north is supposed to have been a "record" passage. Had it been with traders' merchandise the journey would have taken at least a month more.

The Orient Lodge of Mark Master Masons was consecrated at Shanghai on the 20th inst. The *N. C. Daily News* says the Orient is the first Mark Masters' Lodge which has been opened in the Far East under the English Constitution, but this is a mistake, there being two Mark Masters' Lodges working in Hongkong under that constitution.

Captain Henry Webber, late of the *Irene*, has been presented, on the recommendation of Li Hung-chang, with the Chinese decoration of the Double Dragon, Div. I., Class 3, for "in the face of danger carrying provisions and munitions of war in his vessel." The owners of the vessel have also presented him with a valuable pair of aluminium binoculars "for valuable services rendered." In connection with this, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the rapacity of yamen runners and hangers-on may be mentioned. Among the recipients of the Chinese honours are a number of foreigners who have made themselves useful to the government during the war, but when the decorations have been handed to them, the rascally yamenites have insinuated that they, being without pay, expected a present for their trouble, and when they did not get it they tried to fleece those Chinese whom they thought could induce the receivers of the decorations to give them a *douceur*.

Whatever may be said to the contrary it is evident, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the power of the Li party is rapidly on the decline and the principal members are now sending in their resignations to the Throne, for the simple reason that they have been made to understand that unless they do so they will be denounced and thus be liable to dismissal. The first case in point, of course, is the ex-Viceroy of the Two Kwang, Li Han-chang. We also know that the Viceroy Li himself has sent in his resignation to the Emperor, but so far has not received his Majesty's Rescript deciding one way or the other. Apparently, both the enemies and supporters of the old Viceroy are waiting for the result of Li Chin-fang's mission to Formosa before commencing the fight for power in earnest. And now comes the news wired from Peking to the effect that by a decree of the 21st inst. the Emperor had allowed Chou Fu, Provincial Judge of Chihli, to resign his post. This official is well-known to foreigners in the North as the principal protégé of the Viceroy Li and during the war held the post of Chief of the Military Secretariat in Manchuria. The story is told of Chou Fu when entering Moukden, the ancestral home of the Tsing dynasty in September last year, that he was ordered by the Manchu guards at the gates to leave his sedan chair and pass the ancient palace of the dynasty on foot, as no subject was allowed by law to do so riding in a sedan chair. Chou Fu absolutely refused to consent to this and trusting in the 250 cavalry which protected him he ordered his chair-bearers to "go ahead." The Manchu guards still attempted to oppose the ingress of the Chinese, but were either pushed aside or trampled down in the scuffle that ensued. In consideration of the fact that he was the favourite protégé of the Viceroy Li (this was just after the battle of Pingyang) and was, moreover, in command of 4,000 Huai troops, the Tartar-General of Moukden, Yu Luh, dared do nothing against this haughty Chinese official and was forced to pocket for the time being this insult offered to the Manchu dynasty.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 20th May.—Business reported since the 13th inst. is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
Settlements ...	288,754 ½-chests.	172,088 ½-chests.
Consisting of the following Teas:—		
Ningchows ...	66,703 ½-chests.	at Tls. 14.00 to 75.00
Khemuns.....	22,782	" " 26.00 to 70.00
Ho-hows	6,905	" " 17.50 to 19.00
Wen-chows	500	" " 24.50 to 28.00
Oopacks	96,245	" " 15.25 to 39.00
Oonams	35,135	" " 13.60 to 36.00
Oonfaas	47,893	" " 24.25 to 56.00
Seang-tams....	12,591	" " 11.10 to 19.25

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding number of days from the opening of last season, viz., 13 days.

	1895.	1894.
Hankow Tea.		
Settlements ...	304,191 ½-chests.	207,841 ½-chests.
Stock	73,454	" 73,633
Arrivals	377,645	" 281,474
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements ...	137,753 ½-chests.	92,369 ½-chests.
Stock	72,204	" 54,624
Arrivals	209,957	" 146,993

The entire business to date as compared with the number of days last year is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
For London and America.....	60,000 ½-chests.	46,000 ½-chests.
For Russia ...	381,944	" 254,210
	441,944	" 300,210

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao.....	161,490	146,475

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96.	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	405,294	58,672

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	22,555,223	21,619,462
EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.		
	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	1,001,127	298,987
Kobe	156,540	163,047
	1,157,667	462,034

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 23rd May.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams to the 21st current report the market quiet and make no change in quotations. Raw Silk.—There have been no transactions in any sort of silk this week. New Crop.—Is progressing favourably and the silk worms are now mostly making the cocoons, which from several districts are reported to be good. The total yield of silk is estimated to be fully 10 per cent. more than last year. About the Yellow Silk crop nothing definite is known yet, but Chinese are confident that the result will be over that of last season. Muster bales of White Silks are expected by the beginning of next month. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 16th to the 22nd inst. are 9 bales of White, 107 bales of Yellow, and 881 bales of Wild Silk. Waste Silk.—Tussah Waste 1 and 2 has changed hands at Tls. 25½ and Tls. 21½. Common Szechuen Prisonnets were taken at 13½ and Nanking Buttons 1 and 2 at Tls. 68. Pongees.—No transactions. The new season's silk market was opened to-day, the following prices being paid for forward delivery:—Bird Chungling at Tls. 370, Mountain 4 at Tls. 370, Mountain 4 at Tls. 345, Gold Lion at Tls. 340, Gold Kiling at Tls. 310, Double Silver Elephant at Tls. 310.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95	1893-94
	bales.	bales.
Canton	15,754	18,435
Shanghai	59,075	57,777
Yokohama	20,679	22,934
Total to date	86,508	99,146

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	bales.	bales.
Canton.....	8,793	4,507
Shanghai.....	9,662	5,204
Yokohama	27,430	17,536
	45,885	27,247

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23th May.—The scarcity continues and prices are still moving upward. Quotations for Formosa are \$72.00 to \$72.50. During the past week sales have been 120 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—A further decline has to be reported. Following are the quotations:—
 Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.23 to 7.25 per picul.
 do. 2, White... 6.70 to 6.75 "
 Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.70 to 4.73 "
 do. 2, Brown... 4.59 to 4.62 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.10 to 7.13 "
 do. 2, White... 6.70 to 6.72 "
 do. 1, Brown... 4.41 to 4.45 "
 Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.28 to 4.31 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy.....10.30 to 10.35 "
 Shekloong, "..... 8.95 to 9.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The P. & O. steamer *Canton*, Hongkong to London, 15th May, took:—14 bales Duck Feathers, 50 bales Waste Silk, 15 cases Bristles, 50 cases Gallnuts, 182 packages Canes, 600 bales Broken Cassia, 43 cases Chinaware, 281 rolls Matting, 4 cases Silk Piece Goods, 100 cases Preserves, 87 packages Sundries, and 885 boxes Tea (18,585 lbs. Congou); for France:—27 bales Pierced Cocoons, 10 packages Plants, and 6 packages Rattan Chairs; for Rosario:—100 packages Tea; for New York:—18 cases Bristles.

The German steamer *Frigga*, Hongkong to Havre 15th May, took:—1 case Curios, 8 cases Bristles, 171 rolls Matting, 300 packages Tea, 65 cases Chinaware, 26 bales Rattans, 4 packages Paper, and 4 packages Rattan Shavings; for Havre option Hamburg:—92 cases Camphor and 95 rolls Matting; for Havre option London:—20 cases Essential Oil; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—1,368 cases Camphor, 90 cases Bristles, and 34 bales Feathers; for Hamburg:—139 rolls Matting, 20 boxes Essential Oil, 28 cases Bristles, 368 bales Canes, 353 bales Feathers, 1,250 packages Tea, 36 cases Gallnuts, 3 bales Carpets, 10

cases Ginger, 30 cases Ginger, 122 packages Merchandise, and 8 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—5 cases Bristles; for Antwerp:—25 boxes Bristles; for Lisbon:—4 cases Chinaware.

The steamer *Palamed*, Hongkong to London, 15th May, took:—2,147 boxes Tea (50,487 lbs. Congou), 150 cases Ginger, 16 cases Vegetable Oil, 320 rolls Mats, 23 cases Chinaware, 40 bales Canes, 4 cases Bristles, 1,700 packages Fire Crackers, and 150 bales Waste Silk; for Glasgow:—30 cases Blackwoodware.

The P. & O. steamer *Kaisar-i-Hind*, Hongkong to London, 23rd May, took:—15 cases Cigars, 2,923 packages Tea, 4 baskets Rosin, 1 case China Roots, 130 packages Canes, 50 cases Bristles, 75 bales Waste Silk, 10 cases Silk Piece Goods, 19 packages Sundries, and 660 boxes Tea (16,060 lbs. Congou); for France:—565 bales Raw Silk, 11 cases Silk Piece Goods, 4 bales Bristles, and 20 packages Tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Bengal.—The market has continued quiet and a further decline in prices has taken place. New Patna has dropped to \$762½, Old to \$825, New Benares to \$757½, and Old to \$790.

Malwa.—The drug also has not been much inquired for during the past week. Rates, however, are unaltered, the following being the latest figures:—

New Patna.....\$690 with allow'ce of 1 to 2½ cts.
 Old (2 to 3 yrs.) \$730 " 1 to 2 "
 " (4 to 5 yrs.) \$740 " 1 to 2 "
 " (6 to 8 yrs.) \$750 " ½ to 1½ "

Persian.—Some business passed in this drug during the interval and prices close steady at \$720 to \$750 for Oily and at \$760 to \$805 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....1,730 chests.
 Old Patna..... 160 "
 New Benares..... 460 "
 Old Benares..... 500 "
 Malwa..... 600 "
 Persian..... 1,020 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Business has been quieter during the past week and prices have given way a little. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.18 to 2.20
 " Round, good quality..... 2.30 to 2.32
 " Long..... 2.45 to 2.47
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2... 2.18 to 2.21
 " Garden, " No. 1... 2.45 to 2.48
 Siam White..... 2.95 to 3.68
 " Fine Cargo..... 3.12 to 3.15

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—475 bales No. 10 at \$64 to \$73, 150 bales No. 12 at \$71 to \$73, 105 bales No. 16 at \$73 to \$75, 375 bales No. 20 at \$79.50 to \$82. *Grey Shirtings*.—350 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.75, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.30, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B at \$2.70, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Flower and Vase at \$3.60, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Dragon at \$2.65, 450 pieces 11 lbs. Blue 2 Dragon at \$3.75, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Palace Chop at \$3.02½, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Snake and Elephant at \$2.62½ to \$2.64, 2,750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.60, 2,000 pieces Red 5 Men at \$3.05, 1,000 pieces 4½ lbs. Red 5 Men at \$1.25, 800 pieces 7 lbs. Red Lion at \$1.70, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Double Feeling at \$2.60. *White Shirtings*.—2,000 pieces No. 600 at \$4, 4,000 pieces S. Q. at \$4, 500 pieces S. S. at \$4.25, 500 pieces Goose at \$3.90, 1,500 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.30, 2,000 pieces No. 66,000 at \$5.20 to \$5.25, 1,000 pieces Woman Chop at \$5.25, 1,000 pieces No. 3 at \$3.10, 250 pieces Spear Man at \$5.05, 1,000 pieces Black Peach at \$1.95½ to \$1.95, 900 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.65, 1,000 pieces Gold Dragon at \$4, 2,500 pieces 1 Chop at \$2.90, 1,250 pieces No. 5 at \$3.50, 500 pieces Gold Joss B at \$3.07½, 1,500 pieces S. R. at \$4.10, 650 pieces X 8 at \$3.90. *T-Cloths*.—1,650 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.10 to \$2.12½, 3,750 pieces Mex. Red Stag at \$2.47½, 3,000 pieces Blue Dragon B. B. at \$2.10 to \$2.12½, 1,200 pieces V. V. at \$2.67½, 3,100 pieces Mex. Sil. Pheasant at \$1.72½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. X. M. at \$2.20, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. D. Feeling Z. Z. at \$2.60, 780 pieces Red Moon at \$2.57½, 2,250 pieces \$6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.60 to \$1.62½, 750 Mex. 4 Stags at \$2.07½. *Drills*.—900 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.10. *Camlets*.—50 pieces 8 persons, assorted, at \$17.50.

METALS.—Lead.—200 tons Old Horse Shoes at \$2.30.

COTTON YARN.....per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20.....\$59.00 to \$84.50
 English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 95.00 to 99.00
 " 22 to 24..... 99.00 to 103.00
 " 28 to 32.....107.00 to 112.00
 " 38 to 42.....114.00 to 123.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.....per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6lbs..... 1.35 to 1.45
 7lbs..... 1.80 to 2.00
 8½ lbs. 2.20 to 2.90
 9 to 10 lbs..... 3.10 to 3.60
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.00 to 2.25
 58 to 60 " 2.40 to 3.00
 64 to 66 " 3.10 to 3.50
 Fine 3.80 to 6.30
 Book-folds.. 2.80 to 5.00
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.58 to 1.30
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.35 to 1.45
 7lbs. (32 ") .. 1.75 to 1.85
 6lbs. (32 ") .. 1.55 to 1.65
 7lbs. (32 ") .. 1.95 to 2.15
 8 to 8½ lbs. (36 in.) 2.10 to 2.80
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14½ lbs..... 3.00 to 4.10

FANCY COTTONS
 Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5½ lbs. } 1.25 to 2.65

Brocades—Dyed 3.65 to 4.50
 Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.07 to 0.11
 Velvets—Black, 22 in..... 0.20 to 0.30
 Velveteens—18 in..... 0.17 to 0.20

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....per dozen 0.40 to 0.80
 WOOLLENS.....per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 0.85
 German 0.95 to 1.10
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.20 to 2.60

Long Ellis—Scarlet 6.50 to 7.80
 Assorted 6.60 to 7.90
 Camlets—Assorted 14.00 to 29.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 13.50 to 21.00

Orleans—Plain 3.70 to 4.90
 Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 4.50 to 9.00

METALS.....per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 2.90 to 2.95
 Square, Flat Round Bar..... 2.85 to 2.90
 Swedish Bar 4.60 to —
 Small Round Rod..... 3.50 to —
 Hoop 4.30 to —
 Old Wire Rope 3.00 to —
 Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 6.15 to 6.20

Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 25.50 to —
 Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —
 Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 25.00 to —
 Japan Copper Stabs 23.50 to —
 do. Tiles..... 23.50 to —
 Tin 36.50 to —

per box
 Tin-Plates 5.25 to —
 per cwt. case
 Steel 5.30 to —
 SUNDRIES.....per picul
 Quicksilver.....117.50 to 118.00
 per box
 Window Glass 3.20 to —
 per 10-gal. case
 Kerosene Oil..... 2.15 to —

SHANGHAI, 23rd May.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—Whatever confidence there may be in the future of the trade the natives are not prepared to pay up now for spot cargo, except in a few isolated cases, and are taking every opportunity of any advance in exchange to ask for further concessions. Quite a fair amount of business has been doing to arrive, however, in American and Manchester makes, in spite of the higher prices prevailing in both those markets, the easiness in the latter noticed last week being, apparently, quite a temporary lull and makers are now stronger than ever. The reason for this it is difficult to conjecture, and direct enquiries have failed to elicit any response, the mere fact that cotton is dearer being deemed insufficient, that alone requiring some explanation. The country is in a very unsettled state in the North, and famine is already causing havoc in many parts, which must reflect more or less on the trade centres. Considerable quantities of all kinds of goods have been going up to Chefoo and Tientsin during the last two or three weeks, but nothing so far to Newchang. It is reported that the Japanese there are busily engaged demolishing the forts, and will withdraw their army so soon as that is accomplished, when it is expected the traders will return to their old quarters, and business will be resumed in a month or two. Rumour has it that small quantities of piece goods have already found their way there and have gone off very satisfactorily. The auctions continue to indicate the feeling for hard cargo, cottons being unduly weak, considering the cost of replacing.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report).—24th May:—There has been scarcely anything done in this line. Lead, the only transactions in which have been tea-house business, show a slightly downward tendency on last week's quotations. In Nailrods, an order has been placed for 300 tons Sohiers at 25 2s. 6d. c.i.f., and 800 tons Glasgow Horse-Shoes at 77/6 c.i.f. An order for 200 tons Steel Plate Cuttings, 50 tons Old Iron Wire, and 50 tons Wire Rope has been placed at prices which are not made public, though, as the home market has risen, the expectation is that the market here will strengthen. No other business has been done.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Business has continued to rule comparatively dull and we have nothing of any importance to report. The chief feature of the market has been a further fall in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares of four points. The weakness seems to emanate from Shanghai and is attributed to (1) over-speculation amongst the Chinese, (2) the desire of holders to sell their interest in the stock to invest proceeds in Hongkew Wharfs and a new Tobacco Co., (3) the still unsettled aspect of affairs between Russia and Japan and the impending Formosa difficulty. Market generally closes steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further declined to 181 per cent. prem., at which rate sales were effected; a few small lots changed hands in the early part of the week at 184 and 183 per cent. prem.; market closes steady at 181. Nationals have further declined to \$30 without finding buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have continued in demand and the rate has risen to \$162 with small sales; a few China Traders have changed hands at \$66½, but sellers rule the market. Cantons have found investing buyers at \$161, but no shares seem forthcoming. Straits have ruled weak.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Remain unchanged and we have no business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao after sales at \$33 have receded to \$32½ with sales, closing with probable buyers at that rate. Indo-Chinas have further improved their position and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$52, \$52½, \$53, and \$54, closing firm at latter rate. Douglas's have been enquired for without leading to business, and market closes firm with buyers and no sellers at \$52.

REFINERIES.—Both Chinas and Luzons have ruled neglected, and we have no business to report. At \$100 Chinas are wanted.

MINING.—Punjoms after further sales at \$6.75 have gone back to \$6.50 with sellers. Charbonnages have been enquired for at \$60, but no shares are obtainable at anything near that rate. Jebebus have receded to \$3½ with sales.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have changed hands at 99 and 100 per cent. prem., and close steady at latter rate. Lands have been enquired for and have changed hands at \$59, chiefly for the North. Wharfs have improved to \$40, after small sales at \$39½, and loss to \$78, both closing steady. We have no further business to report.

Closing quotations are:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	181 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, & Co.	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$30, sellers
Found. Shares.	\$1	n. m.
Bell's Asbestos E. A. {		
	\$15s.	\$10, sales
Brown & Co., H. G....	\$50	\$4½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	\$2
China Borneo.....	\$55	nom.
China Sugar.....	\$100	\$105, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$8, sales & seller.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$16½
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$9½, sales & sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$8, buyers
H. & C. Bakery.....	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$5, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$71, buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$78, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$40, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$120, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	100 p. ct. pm., sales
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	\$9, sales & sellers
Shameen.....	\$20	\$4
Insurance—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$161, sales
China Fire.....	\$20	\$87½, sellers
China Traders'...	\$25	\$66½, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire...	\$50	\$200, sellers
North-China.....	\$25	Tls. 195, sellers
Straits Marine.....	\$20	\$18, sales
Union.....	\$25	\$162, sellers
Yangtze.....	\$30	\$90, buyers
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$59, sales & buyer.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$11, sale & buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$18, buyers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$45, sales & buyers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$5.25, sales & sellers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$65, buyers
Jebebu.....	\$34	\$34, buyers
Punjom.....	\$34	\$64, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.8, sales & buyers
Raub.....	13s. 10d.	\$4.25
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila...	\$50	\$52½, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$52, buyers
H. Canton & M...	\$20	\$32½, sales
Indo-China S. N...	\$10	\$54, sales & buyers
W'chai Warh'se Co.	\$37½	\$37½
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$9.50 sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 24th May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The market has been drooping during the week. Shares have changed hands at 183, 183½, 181, and 180 per cent. premium.—The London rate is quoted 244½. In Hongkong there are sellers at 185 and buyers at 182 per cent. premium. National Bank of China.—Shares have been placed at \$32. Shipping.—The rumour that the Indo-China S. N. Co. will pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for 1894 caused a demand for shares, which have changed hands locally at from Tls. 34 to Tls. 39, and have been purchased from Hongkong at from \$50 to \$54. A purchase was made to-day at \$53½. There are sellers at the close. China Mutual S. N. shares are offering, those with £5 paid up at £3, and some with £3½ paid up at £1. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares are offering in Hongkong at \$33½. Docks.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares have changed hands in Hongkong at 97½ per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—Yangtzes have been sold at \$90, and are offering at the same rate. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been placed, and are offering, at \$200. Chinas

have also changed hands at \$85. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares are offering at Tls. 295. Birt's Wharf Co. will pay the half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. on the 29th current. Cargo Boats.—Shanghais have been placed at Tls. 142½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Gas shares have been sold at Tls. 215, Shanghai Waterworks shares at Tls. 175, Hall & Holtz shares at \$20, Shanghai Investment shares, ordinary, at Tls. 37, and fully paid up at Tls. 56, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 47½ and Tls. 49, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 510 and Tls. 525 cash and Tls. 590 for 31st December, Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 120 and Tls. 125 for 30th June, Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 117½, and Bell's Asbestos shares, with 15/0 paid up, at \$9½. Loans.—E. Loan Bonds have been sold at Tls. 251½, Shanghai Land Investment Company's 6 per cent. Debentures at par, and 5½ per cent. Debentures at Tls. 93, the buyer paying the interest which has accrued since 1st April.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—180 per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—\$32.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 127½ per sh.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 39 per sh.
China Mutual S. N. Co.—Tls. 50 per share.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 60½ per sh.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31 per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$49 per share.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 155 per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 140 per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—95 per cent. premium.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$66½ per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 195 per share.
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$155 per share.
Yangtze Insc. Assocn., Ltd.—\$90 per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$156½ per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$18½ per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—200 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$85 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 290 per share.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 43½ per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$39 per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 4 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1½ per share.
Jebebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3½ per sh.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4½ per sh.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 142½ per share.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130 per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$4½ per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 175 p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 29½ p. sh.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$110 per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$45 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$20 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 37 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$57½ p. sh.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$40 per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 49 per sh.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 20 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 525 p. sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 105 per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 117½ per share.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$10 per share.
L'Hotel des Colonies.—Tls. 20.
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 251½ (a).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 93.
(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 24th May.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Business generally presents a more healthy appearance for homeward markets, more especially for New York, as witness the large amount of cargo going forward by the direct steamer on the

berth, and now that tea is again ready for shipment steamers should experience a lively demand for tonnage. Coastwise.—High rates are still ruling from Japan, but an anticipated arrival of tonnage from the south to seek for employment will tend to weaken the market in this direction. From Hankow for London.—We have no definite news of freights in this direction, and at time of writing nothing is known of the prospects for the *Pingsuey*, the only steamer loading. Tea in small lots has already arrived from Hankow for transshipment here, and it seems unlikely that anything like the high rates ruling in former years for the first tea steamer will be obtainable this season. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s., waste silk 45s., tea 55s.; to Northern Continental ports 42s. 6d., waste silk 45s.; to New York 50s., tea 65s.; to Boston 52s. 6d.; to Philadelphia 60s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. From Shanghai to London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; to Hamburg 35s. net; to New York 44s. net; to Philadelphia 50s. net. From Shanghai to Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; to Genoa, tallow 35s., general cargo 40s. net; to Marseilles tallow 35s., general cargo 37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. From Shanghai to New York by sail 25s. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Whampoa 20 candareens regular lines, no demand for outsiders; Moji to Shanghai \$2.65 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2.50 per ton coal. No disengaged vessel in port.

TUESDAY, 28th May.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	2 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand.....	2 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight.....	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight.....	2 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....	2 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.....	2 1/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	2.71
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....	2.76
ON GERMANY.	
On Demand.....	2.19
ON NEW YORK.	
Banks Bills, on demand.....	52 1/2
Credits, 60 day's sight.....	54
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	194
Bank, on demand.....	194 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	194
Bank, on demand.....	194 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.	
Banks, at sight.....	71 1/2
Private, 30 day's sight.....	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand.....	par.
ON MANILA.	
On demand.....	4 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand.....	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$9.10
GO D LEEF, 100 fms, per tael.....	47.75

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Formosa (str.), Rohilla (str.), Shanghai (str.).
For BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Kriemhild (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Strathnevis (str.), Aslow (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Queen Margaret, City of Rio Janeiro (str.), Gleneslin.
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Macduff (str.), Challenger, Fort Stuart, Santa Clara, Adolph.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

May—	ARRIVALS.
22.	Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
23.	Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
23.	Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
24.	H. W. Jarlsborg, Norw. str., from K'notzu.
24.	Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
24.	China, German str., from Saigon.
24.	Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
24.	Activ, Danish str., from Pakboi.
25.	Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
25.	Catterthun, British str., from Sydney.
25.	Kaisow, British str., from Glasgow.
25.	Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

